



SUGGESTED FOR  
MATURE READERS

1  
DEC

BLAUSTein • WILLIAMS III • PALMIOTTI

"BE CAREFUL  
OF WHAT  
YOU WISH  
FOR, KIDDO."

US \$2.50  
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# DEATHKICK

IT'S A LOVE STORY



DIRECT SALES



7 61941 20392 8 >

NORTH STREET  
SEAPORT DISTRICT.

3:45 AM

FIVE YEARS AGO I  
THOUGHT I WAS NUTS.

WORKIN' ALL MY OFF-DUTY  
TIME ON A CASE NOBODY  
GAVE A RATS ASS ABOUT.

LIEUTENANT LEON  
MARTIN RAHM.

SOME FREAK WAS  
OFFIN' THE QUEENS  
WHO WORKED THE PIER

NASTY BUSINESS... AND I  
WAS HANDLIN' IT ALONE.

ONE OF DAKOTA'S FINEST.

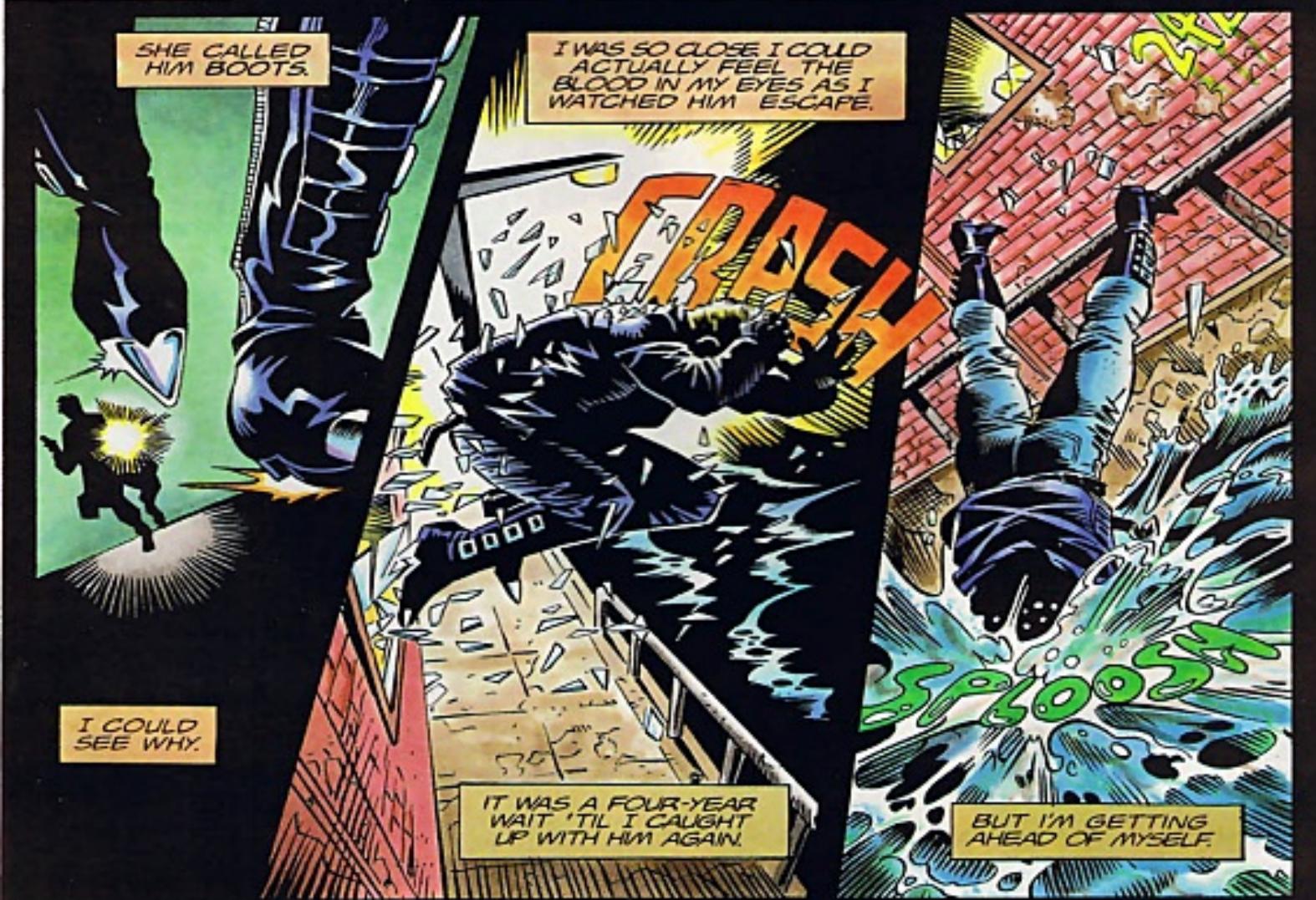
EVERYBODY HAD  
NAMES FOR  
'EM... SOME  
CLINICAL... SOME  
DISGUSTING... I  
JUST CALLED 'EM  
THE GIRLS--

I WANTED TO  
MOTHER THEM.

THAT WAS THE NIGHT  
I MET DINI--

HER AND HER  
FRIEND HAD  
JUST MET UP  
WITH SICKO.

DINI GOT  
SLASHED OVER  
HER LEFT EYE.  
HER FRIEND  
JACKIE WASN'T  
AS LUCKY.





IT WAS A NIGHT OF  
FIRST ENCOUNTERS.

--AND SUDDENLY I WAS  
FACE TO FACE WITH  
DEATH'S DARK MIRROR.

I'D MET AN ANGEL--



--A DEVIL--



DEATHWISH.

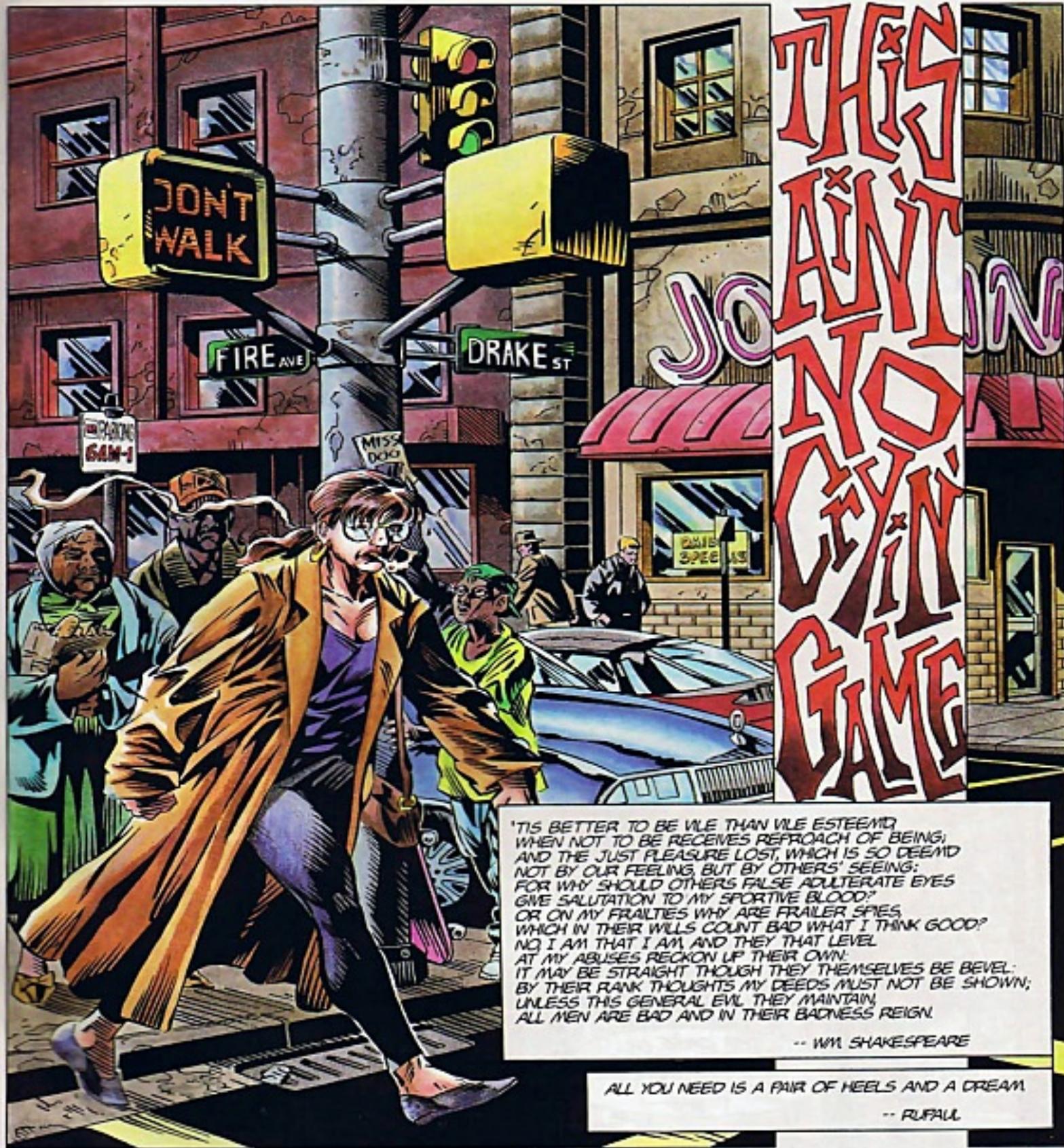


TOLD HIM I WAS  
A COP. STARTED  
TO REACH FOR  
MY BADGE.



LIKE TWENTY BUCKS  
OF POT METAL IN A  
LEATHER CASE WOULD  
MATTER TO THIS GUY.





'TIS BETTER TO BE VILE THAN VILE ESTEEM'D  
WHEN NOT TO BE RECEIVES REPROACH OF BEING;  
AND THE JUST PLEASURE LOST, WHICH IS SO DEEM'D  
NOT BY OUR FEELING, BUT BY OTHERS' SEEING:  
FOR WHY SHOULD OTHERS FALSE ADULTERATE EYES  
GIVE SALUTATION TO MY SPORTIVE BLOOD?  
OR ON MY FRAILTIES WHY ARE FRAILER SPIES,  
WHICH IN THEIR WILLS COUNT BAD WHAT I THINK GOOD?  
NO, I AM THAT I AM, AND THEY THAT LEVEL  
AT MY ABUSES RECKON UP THEIR OWN:  
IT MAY BE STRAIGHT THOUGH THEY THEMSELVES BE BEVEL:  
BY THEIR RANK THOUGHTS MY DEEDS MUST NOT BE SHOWN;  
UNLESS THIS GENERAL EVIL THEY MAINTAIN,  
ALL MEN ARE BAD AND IN THEIR BADNESS REIGN.

-- W.M. SHAKESPEARE

ALL YOU NEED IS A PAIR OF HEELS AND A DREAM

-- RUPAUL

# DAKOTA 2nd PRECINCT

OKAY... IT'S FOUR YEARS  
OF THERAPY LATER.

THE FORCE RECOGNIZES ME  
OFFICIALLY AS LT. MARISA RAHM.  
THE FIRST PRE-OPERATIVE  
TRANSSEXUAL POLICE LIEUTENANT  
THE CITY HAS EVER EMPLOYED.



SKIPPER SAYS IT TOOK  
ME STONES TO STAY  
ON THE FORCE.

MAYBE THAT'S WHY  
I'M KEEPIN' THEM

HANG ON A  
SEC. I THINK MY  
DAY JUST GOT  
WORSE--

DON'T EVEN  
THINK ABOUT  
TAKING ME OFF  
THE CASE!

RAHM!  
I PREFER MY MEN  
TO YELL AT ME  
BEHIND CLOSED  
DOORS.

PEOPLE, SKIPPER--  
CAN YOU LEARN TO  
SAY PEOPLE!

THE DOOR,  
MARISA--

AND MOST OF THAT  
TIME HAS BEEN SPENT  
TRYIN' TO KEEP MY  
BADGE--

THE CASE, GIL!  
I'VE BEEN ON THE  
SEAPORT MURDER  
CASE FOR FOUR  
YEARS--

CLOSER TO FIVE.

I'M NOT  
EXACTLY MS.  
POPULARITY, YA  
KNOW.

SKIPPER WAS REALLY A SWEETIE. ALWAYS HAD TO GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO RE-ESTABLISH HIS AUTHORITY...DO HIS DADDY THING.



EVEN MARTIN KNEW THIS DANCE.



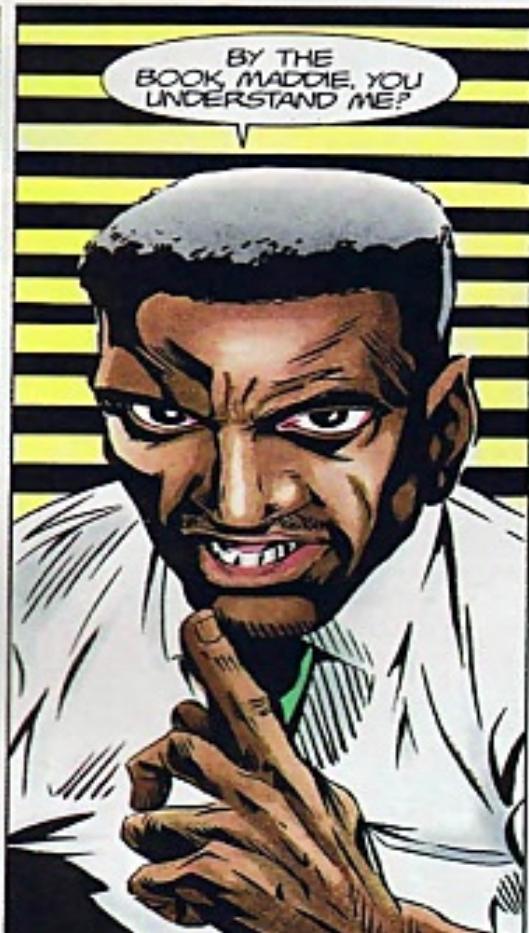
IAD THINKS YOU'RE DATING ONE OF OUR MATERIAL WITNESSES.



HATED TO KEEP STUFF FROM SKIP. ACTUALLY I WAS LIVING WITH DINI.



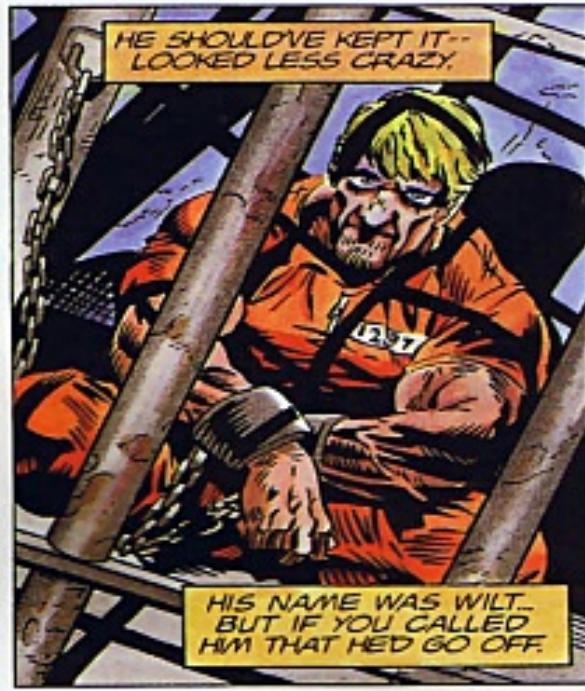
BY THE BOOK, MADDIE. YOU UNDERSTAND ME?



HEY, SKIP--







I FIGURED I COULD PUMP HIM FOR SOME INFO. MAYBE HE WANTED BOOTS ON A PLATTER AS MUCH AS ME.



NOT TOO HARD TO TELL... THIS MOVIE RAN THROUGH MY HEAD TWENTY-FOUR-SEVEN.

IT WAS WITH ME WHEN I WAS A SMALL CHILD LYING AWAKE AT NIGHT AND CURSING THE FATES.

IT WAS WITH ME WHEN I WALKED DOWN THE AISLE AT MY WEDDING... LIKE A JEW AT TREBLINKA.

IT WAS WITH ME WHEN I TOOK THE SEAPORT MURDERS CASE.

IT WAS A STORY OF MIND-NUMBING PAIN UNTIL I MET MY DINI.

MY LIFE STARTED AFTER HER ATTACK AT THE WAREHOUSE. I'D GIVE HER FLOWERS. SHE GAVE ME HER EARS.

MARTIN WAS A MESS.

SHE MUSTVE LOVED ME EVEN THEN. DONT KNOW HOW SHE WAS ABLE TO PUT UP WITH MARTIN'S MELANCHOLY.

SHE WATCHED MARTIN DIE, AS I WAS BEING BORN.











WOULDN'T GUESS IT IF  
YOU LOOKED AT HIM,  
BUT THE WARDEN AT  
THE ABYSS WAS A  
REAL TOUGH BASTARD

GOT INTO THE LAW  
ENFORCEMENT BIZ  
'COS HE LIKED TO  
WATCH OTHER BAS-  
TARDS KISS HIS ASS.

YOU DIDN'T  
MESS WITH  
HARRY "THE  
HAMMER"  
RIGAUD.

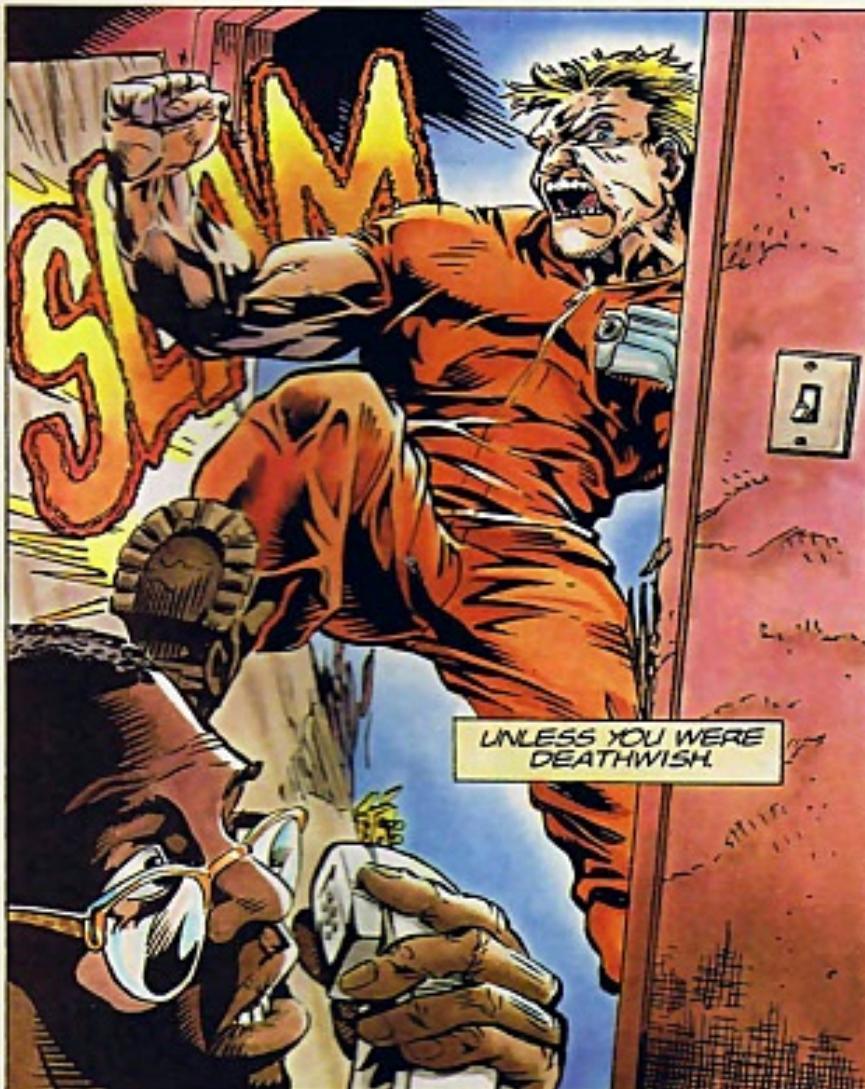
UNLESS YOU WERE  
DEATHWISH.

YOU DON'T HAVE  
TO KILL ME. I CAN  
LET YOU WALK

I'M NOT  
GOING TO  
KILL YOU,  
HARRY.

THAT'S  
YOUR  
JOB.

DO IT.



I WAS HAVIN' A QUIET DINNER WITH MY BABY. TIMES LIKE THAT WERE GETTING FEWER AND FARTHER BETWEEN. THE CASE WAS ALWAYS THERE. HELL, I WAS BORN ON THE CASE-- WONDERIN' IF I'D DIE WHEN IT WAS ALL OVER--

367 OGDEN AVENUE,  
SACHEM CITY.

HOME.

HEY,  
MORT!  
WHAT'S  
WITH THE  
PUSS!?

MORT' -- SHE LIKED TO CALL ME THAT WHEN I WAS GEEKING.

OH -- NOTHING,  
DINI. DINNER'S  
WONDERFUL--  
I JUST--  
I DUNNO--

WHATEVER,  
MORT.

MORT' -- I MUST'VE BEEN GEEKIN' UP A STORM.



MY  
WORST--



BOOTS,  
CALL LINDA--  
I'D LIKE HER TO  
STAY WITH YOU  
TONIGHT.



I KNOW.

SKIPPER  
ONLY  
BEEPED ME  
WHEN THE  
KREPLACH  
HIT THE  
FAN.

THE HOUSE  
OF BOOTS  
WAS BACK  
IN ACTION.  
THE TWO  
UNIFORMS  
WHO PICKED  
ME UP GAVE  
ME THE  
DOPE ON  
THE LATEST  
KILLING.



A REAL  
BLOODBATH

BAD  
ENOUGH  
NEWS ALL  
BY ITSELF,  
BUT THERE  
WAS MORE.



HE ESCAPED  
BROOKHAVEN  
WITHOUT  
FIRING A  
SHOT. ALL  
THE PRISON  
GUARDS  
WERE STILL  
ALIVE.

IT TOOK FOUR  
OFFICERS TO FRY  
THE GUN LOOSE  
FROM HARRY THE  
HAMMER'S GRIP.



THEY FOUND HIM UNDER  
HIS DESK BABBLING LIKE A  
LUNATIC ABOUT EVIL SPIRITS.

NO LEADS AS TO  
DEATHMISH'S WHERE-  
ABOUTS. OR WHY HE  
DECIDED TO ESCAPE  
AFTER A YEAR OF BEING  
A MODEL PRISONER.



I KNEW WHY.

GODDESS  
FORGIVE ME

DEATHMISH  
WAS ON  
THE CASE



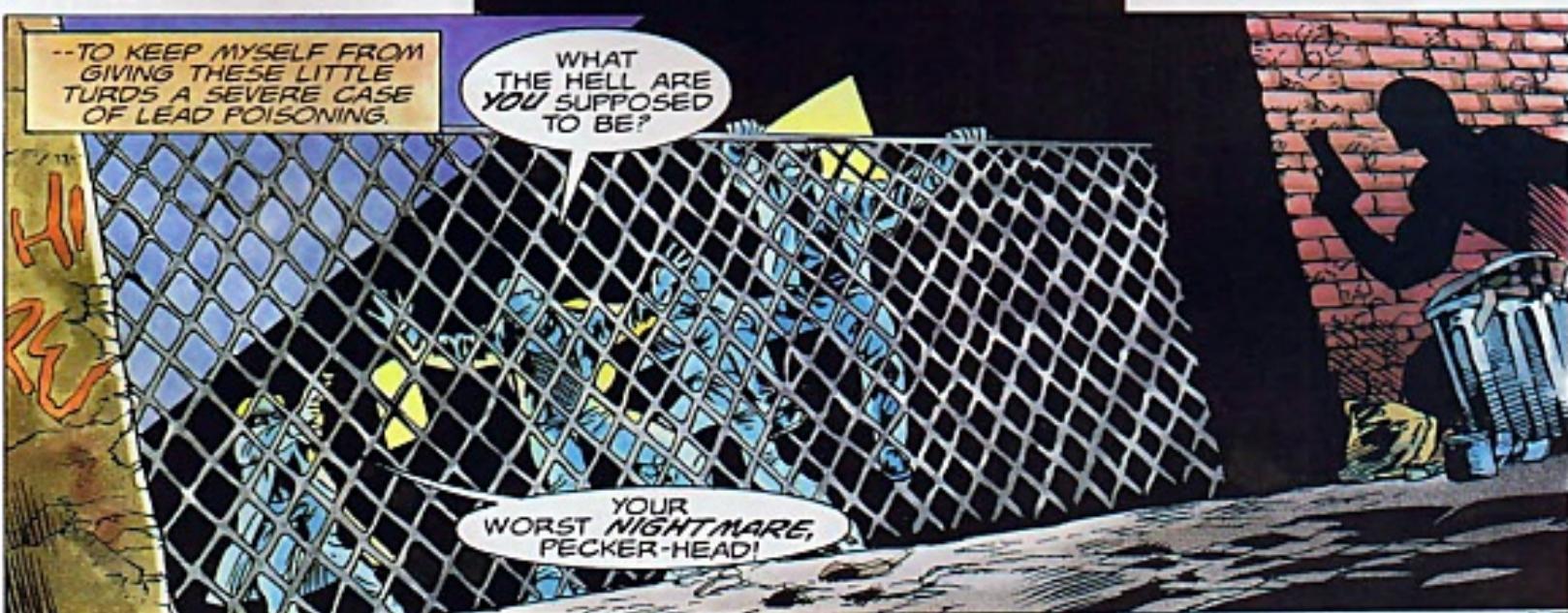
BODY MAKE-UP, THEATRICAL  
LIGHTING-- HOW LONG DID  
IT TAKE TO SET UP THIS  
TWISTED LITTLE TABLEAU?



--TO KEEP MYSELF FROM  
GIVING THESE LITTLE  
TURDS A SEVERE CASE  
OF LEAD POISONING.

WHAT  
THE HELL ARE  
YOU SUPPOSED  
TO BE?

YOUR  
WORST  
NIGHTMARE,  
PECKER-HEAD!



YOU HAVE THE RIGHT  
TO REMAIN SILENT!

THONK

ANYTHING YOU  
SAY CAN, AND WILL,  
BE USED AGAINST  
YOU IN A COURT  
OF LAW!

IF YOU  
CANNOT AFFORD  
AN ATTORNEY,  
THE COURT WILL  
PROVIDE YOU  
WITH ONE.

YOU HAVE  
THE RIGHT TO AN  
ATTORNEY, AND TO  
HAVE THAT ATTORNEY  
PRESENT AT YOUR  
QUESTIONING!

DO YOU  
UNDERSTAND  
THESE RIGHTS  
AS I HAVE  
EXPLAINED  
THEM TO  
YOU?

JESUS,  
RAHM! YOU  
TRYIN TO KILL  
THESE GUYS?

WISH I  
COULD.

OOOOOH,  
MARISA---



ADAM BLAUSTEIN writer • YVES FEZZANI plot assist • J. H. WILLIAMS III penciller  
JIMMY PALMIOTTI inker • J. BROWN painted color • JOSEPH DANIELLO letterer • DWAYNE McDUFFIE editor



## THE FIRST HUNDRED ARE THE TOUGHEST

This month we celebrate that most solemn of holiday events — Milestone's 100th ON-TIME ISSUE, ICON #20!!! This special issue has NO enhancements, other than a great story by Dwayne, and M.D. Bright giving up some pages for ChrisCross and John Paul Leon to pencil! Oh, and some guest appearances by Hardware, Static, Wise Son and some prominent citizens of Dakota! You don't NEED anything more.

Upon reflection, we can only say we made it this far on the backs of some of the best talent in the industry, from the regular crew — Denys, Dwayne, M.D. Bright, ChrisCross, Ivan Velez, Jr., John Paul Leon, Robert L. Washington III, J.J. Birch, Wilfred, John Rozum and Humberto Ramos, to name but a few — to those who lent their talents intermittently — Romeo Tanghal, Bill Sienkiewicz, Mike Manley, Jimmy Palmiotti, Bob Smith, Walter Simonson and John Byrne, to name but another few.

Let us not forget the backstage crew, the guys and gals whose sweat ran only AFTER the pencillers, inkers, letterers and color painters were through, namely the production and support staff. And of course, you, the reader, must share the blame, too. You know who you are.

### FAMILIAR NEW FACES

As long as we're looking back, let us return to September of 1992 when a bright, wide-eyed Christine Gilliam joined a budding Milestone as Office Manager. Recently, Christine, who brought more than her sardonic wit and organizational prowess to the job, was promoted to Manager of Corporate Communications. In addition to the smooth management of the front office, Christine is now responsible for



A step in the right direction... up!  
CHRISTINE GILLIAM and  
JOSEPH P. ILLIDGE.

Next month, we'll show off some of the newest additions to our ever-expanding Staff Universe!

### SPEND YOUR DAKOTA NIGHTS ONLINE!

Since AMERICA ONLINE started MILESTONE ONLINE as part of DC ONLINE, there's been a

convention and special event planning, and press liaison. She is the epitome of finesse, whether getting the word on Milestone out to the public, or serving as gendarme to her lovely 10-year-old daughter, Chanté.

Milestone also welcomes the second promotion of Joseph Illidge from Administrative Assistant to Assistant to the President. A graduate of the School of Visual Arts and Milestone's internship program, Joe has been with Milestone since May of 1993. By October, he was a full-time staff member. Joe heard about Milestone's internship program from pal Jason Scott Jones, whom he met while hanging out at the Outerlimits, a now-defunct comic book shop in Brooklyn. "It was of great significance to my career that I was able to get in at ground level in the first Black-owned comic book company that has made the kind of impact that Milestone has," he says. Hard-working and ambitious, Joe, that rare amalgam of creativity and business sense, has already sold two SHADOW CABINET scripts to Milestone.

whirlwind of ACTIVITY ONLINE! In fact, there's a Milestone chat group, every Wednesday at 7pm edt! It's called DAKOTA NIGHTS, and Milestone's own affable editor, JACQUELINE CHING, and laffable colorist, J. SCOTT J., moderate it. If you have a computer with a modem, you can call AMERICA ONLINE at (800) 203-2600 and get a free DC ONLINE starter kit. Be sure to tell them that you want it because you want MILESTONE!

### DEATHWISH THE FIRST

The first-ever Milestone MINISERIES, is what we meant! Writer ADAM BLAUSTEIN has made the streets of Dakota noticeably harder, in a four-issue mini that starts this month. This will likely be the miniseries that has everybody talking this season. Penciller J.H. WILLIAMS III shines, firmly establishing himself as one of



DEATHWISH #1

the brightest new talents around, while inker JIMMY PALMIOTTI and color painter J. BROWN each deliver some of the best work of their stellar careers.

The excitement that the talent involved feels for this project shows up on every page. In the Milestone tradition, this one will foil your expectations. For instance, you've probably figured out that it's a love story, right?



Look for these NEW LOGOS, starting this month! They're for STATIC AND SHADOW CABINET, but then, you probably know that.

## DECEMBER MILESTONES™

■ **HARDWARE #22** Clay, Ramos, Rollins, Brown; Ships October 11th When ALVA recruits a brilliant young African American scientist, Curt Metcalfe suspects his boss of trying to make another HARDWARE! Can there only be one? ■ **ICON #20** McDuffie, Bright, Gustovich & J. Scott J.; Ships October 18th THE MOTHERSHIP CONNECTION, part THREE! Before ICON leaves for his home planet, he and Detective NEBRASKA MacCULLUM are going to tie up some loose ends. Guest-starring DHARMA, STATIC, PAYBACK, WISE SON, HARDWARE, ALVA and the FINAL, COMPLETE, SECRET OF THE BIG BANG! ■ **XOMBI #7** Rozum, Birch & Giddings; Ships October 18th THE SCHOOL OF ANGUISH, part ONE! David Kim witnesses a murder-for-hire that goes horribly wrong when he crosses paths with MANUEL DEXTERITY! ■ **BLOOD SYNDICATE #21** Velez Jr., ChrisCross; Quijano & Wrightson; ships October 25th A disastrous crackhouse raid becomes an opportunity for MASQUERADE to stab the rest of the Syndicate in the back! ■ **SHADOW CABINET #7** Wayne, Leon, Martinbrough & Lacquement; Ships October 25th DHARMA's double-dealing with SYSTEM brings him face-to-face with EDWIN ALVA! Plus, a guest appearance from HARDWARE! Plus, PLUS! ■ **KOBALT #7** Rozum, Iglesias, Rae & Montoya; Ships November 1st BLOWFLY threatens to tear Hemingway High apart, but he didn't count on PAGE showing up — or STATIC, either! ■ **STATIC #18** Washington III, Wilfred, Stanisci & Lacquement; Ships November 8th WHAT ARE LITTLE BOYS MADE OF?, part THREE! PRINCESS NIGHTMARE, Empress of Ten Thousand Screaming Worlds of Terror, arrives in Dakota to make life hell for all men, misogynists and STATIC alike! ■ **DEATHWISH #1** Blaustein, Williams III, Palmiotti, Brown; ships November 8th The first Milestone miniseries! Dakota Police Lieutenant MARISA RAHM is stymied by a psychopathic serial killer until DEATHWISH, the psycho killer from HARDWARE #5-7, breaks himself out of jail to help her out! Takes one to know one! ■ **HARDWARE POSTER** by DENYS COWAN and KENT WILLIAMS!

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WRITE TO:

**DEATHWISH**

119 WEST 23RD STREET, SUITE 409 NEW YORK, NY 10011

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Cover: J. H. Williams III / Noelle Giddings

# NEXT ISSUE: SOME LIKE IT... NOT!

DANIELLO



SCANNED BY  
JHFRAIL DCP





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MATURE READERS

NO. 2  
JAN  
US \$2.50  
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"YOU DON'T  
GET IT KIDDIO,  
THIS ISN'T A  
GAME!"

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AA  
MATURE



# DEATHKNIGHT

PAINT THE  
TOWN DEAD



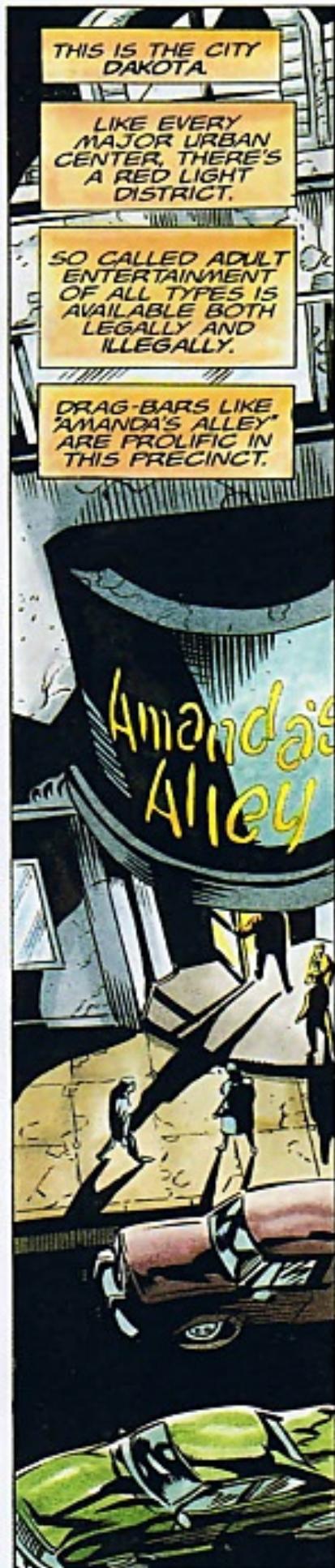
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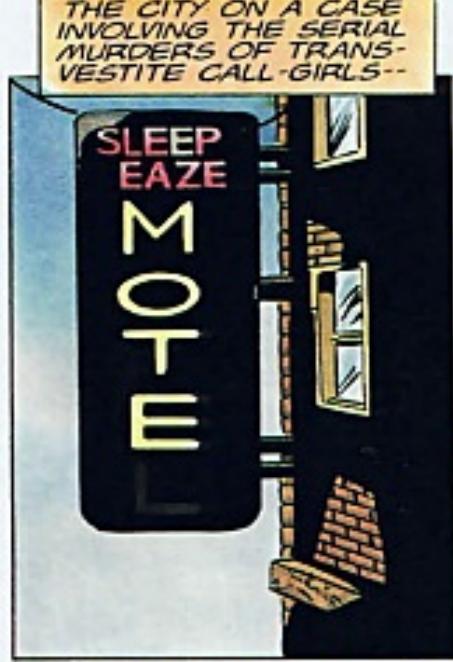
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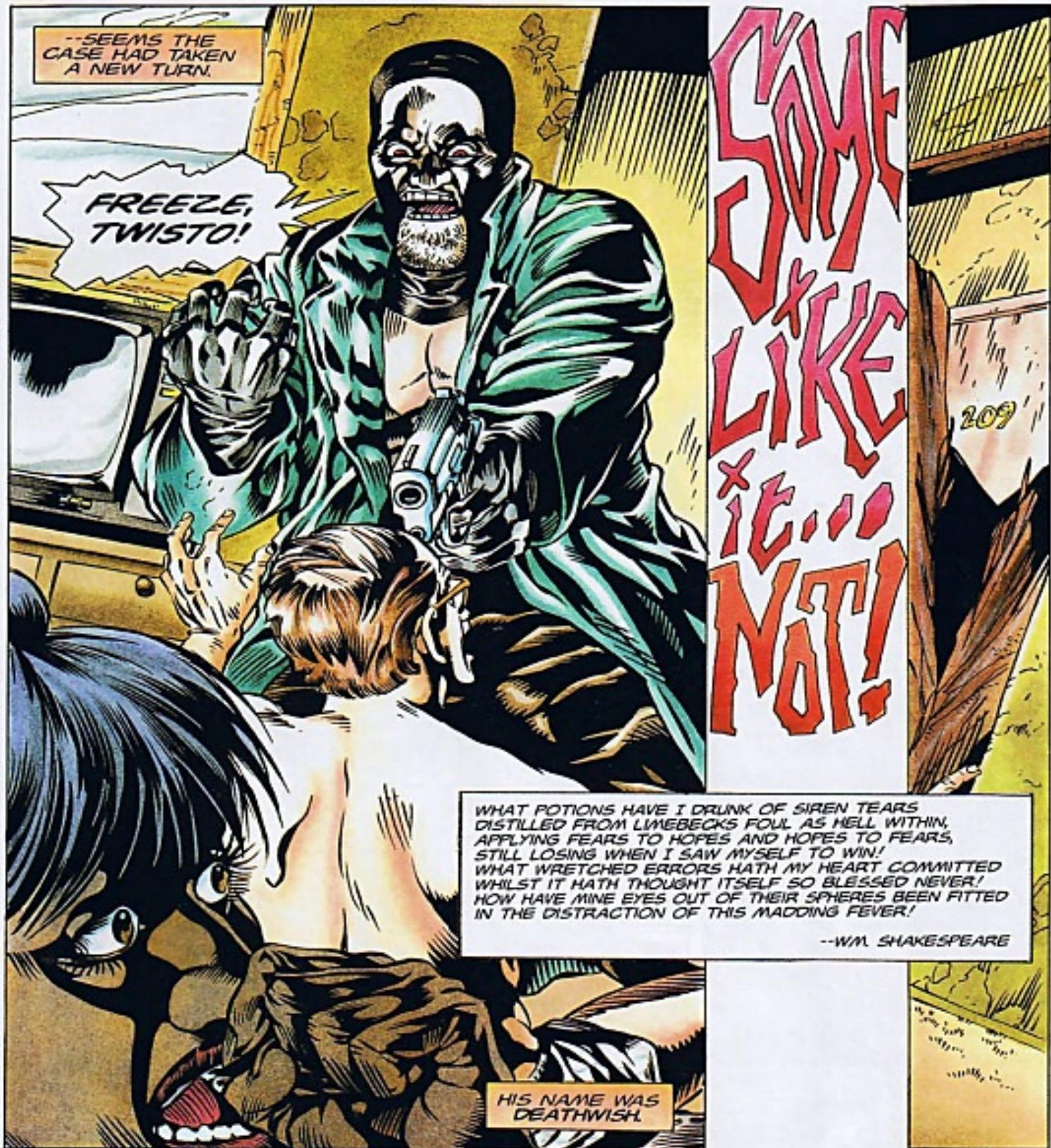


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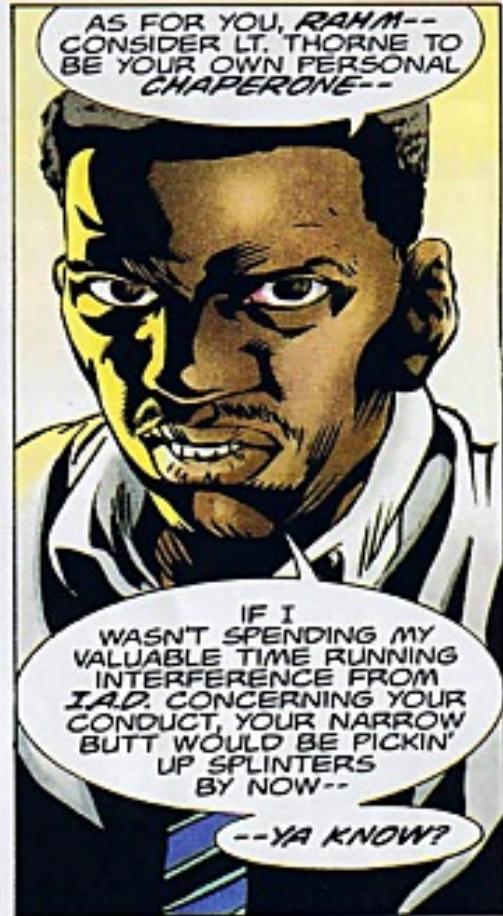


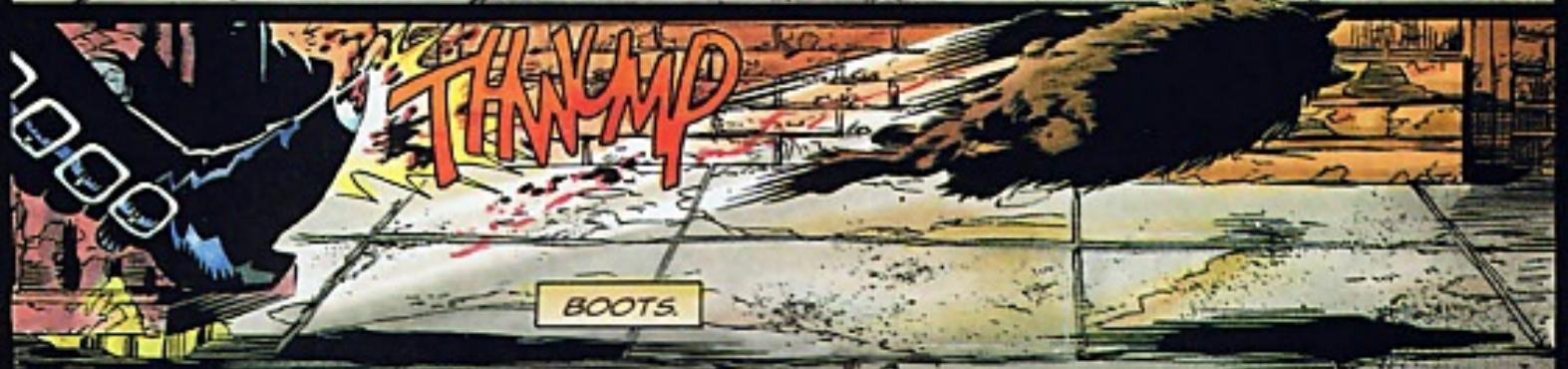




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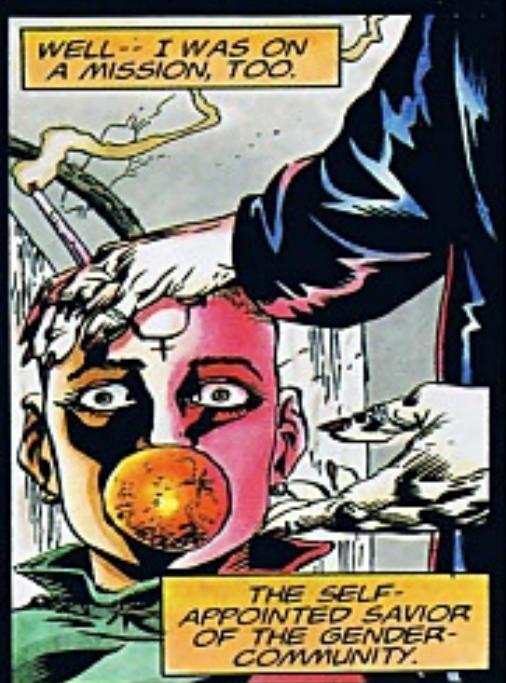
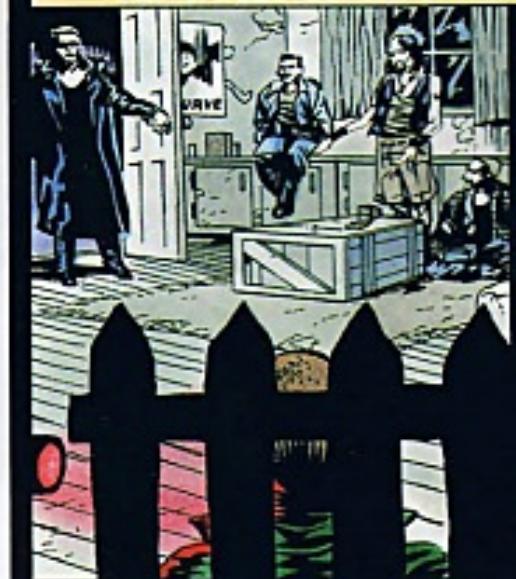








A LOT OF THE GIRLS IN DAKOTA HAD ORGANIZED THEMSELVES INTO HOUSES-- SURROGATE FAMILIES WHERE THEY THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE SAFE.





SHORTLY AFTER  
MOVING IN TOGETHER,  
DINI WENT AND BOUGHT  
ME A COMPUTER.



FOUR YEARS OF CASE-  
NOTES, ON SMALL SLIPS  
OF PAPER, TURNING UP  
ALL OVER THE APART-  
MENT DROVE HER CRAZY.

NOT AS CRAZY  
AS THE HOURS  
I WAS KEEPIN'--



I NEED  
YOU TO LOOK  
IN MY EYES--  
NOT AT THE  
SCAR.

SHE WAS RIGHT.  
I WAS STILL LOOKIN'  
AT THE SCAR--



BBRIINNG

AND I WAS STILL  
ANSWERING THE  
PHONE EVERY  
TIME IT RANG.



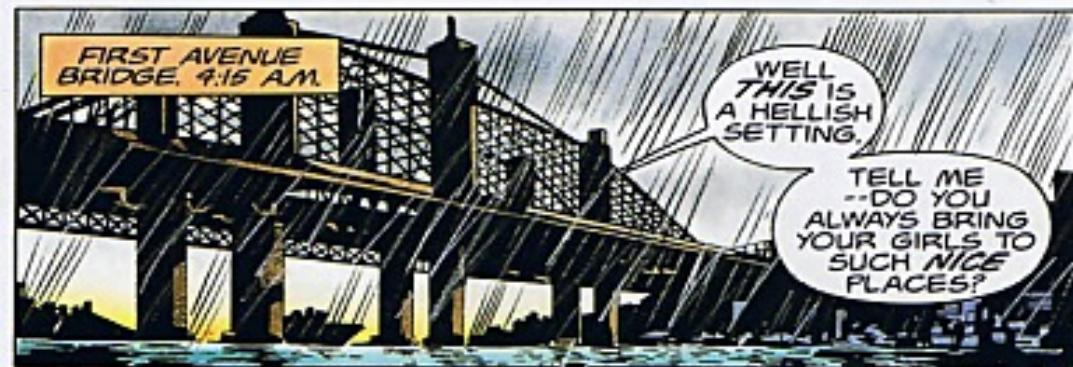
BBRING

1 2 3  
4 5 6  
7 8 9  
0 QWERTY

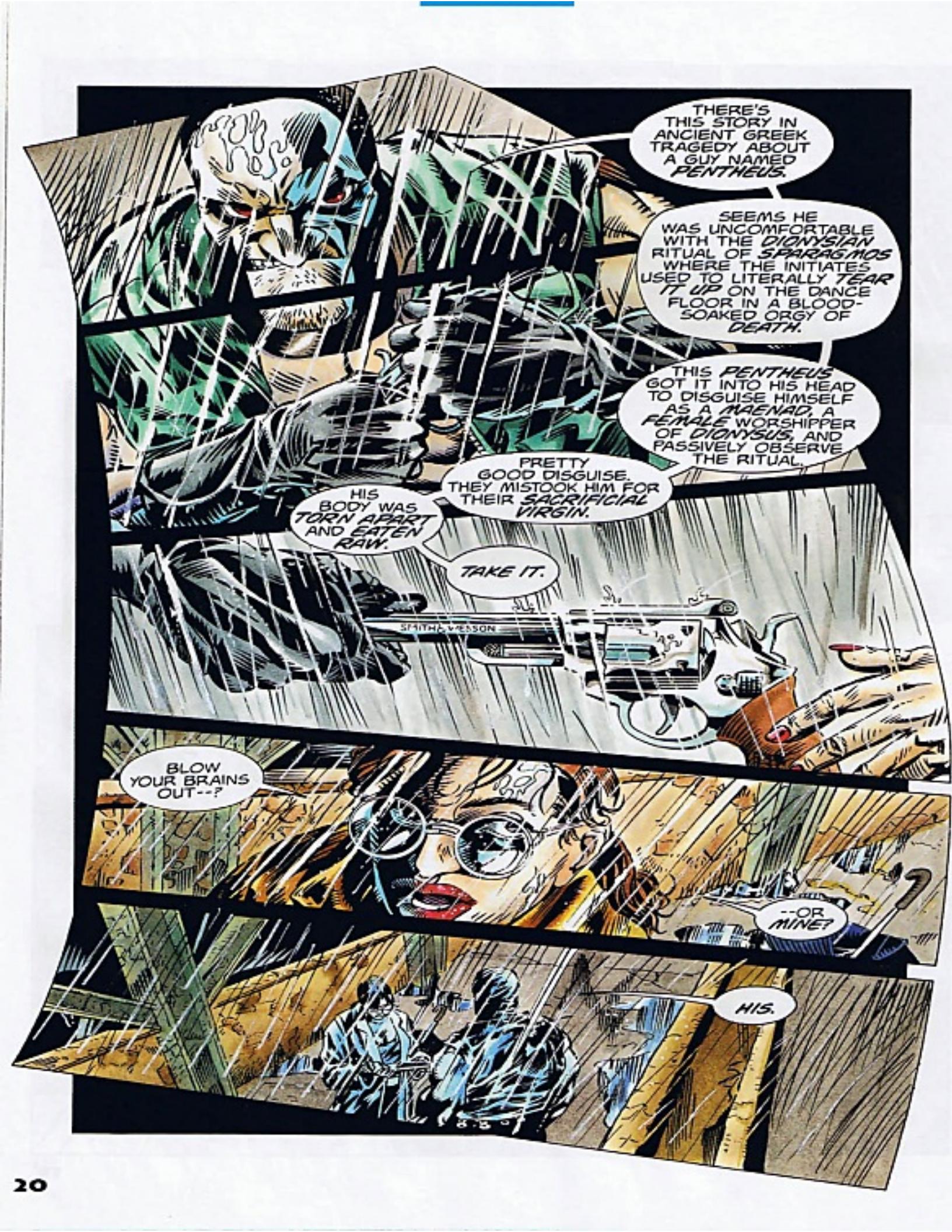
I WAS BORN  
ON THE CASE.











THERE'S THIS STORY IN ANCIENT GREEK TRAGEDY ABOUT A GUY NAMED PENTHEUS.

SEEMS HE WAS UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE DIONYSIAN RITUAL OF SPARAGMOS WHERE THE INITIATES USED TO LITERALLY TEAR IT UP ON THE DANCE FLOOR IN A BLOOD-SOAKED ORGY OF DEATH.

THIS PENTHEUS GOT IT INTO HIS HEAD TO DISGUISE HIMSELF AS A MAENAD, A FEMALE WORSHIPPER OF DIONYSUS, AND PASSIVELY OBSERVE THE RITUAL.

PRETTY GOOD DISGUISE. THEY MISTOOK HIM FOR THEIR SACRIFICIAL VIRGIN.

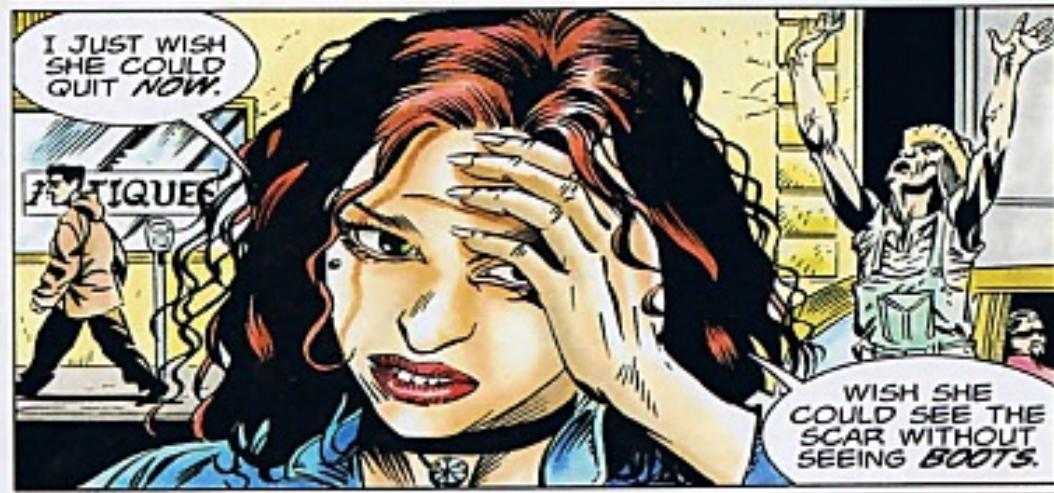
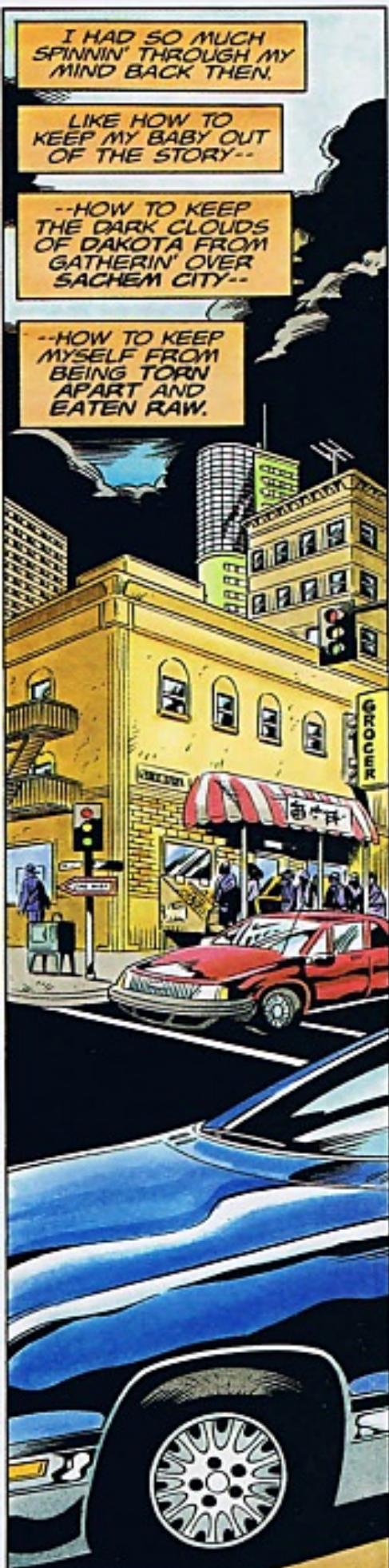
HIS BODY WAS TORN APART AND EATEN RAW.

TAKE IT.

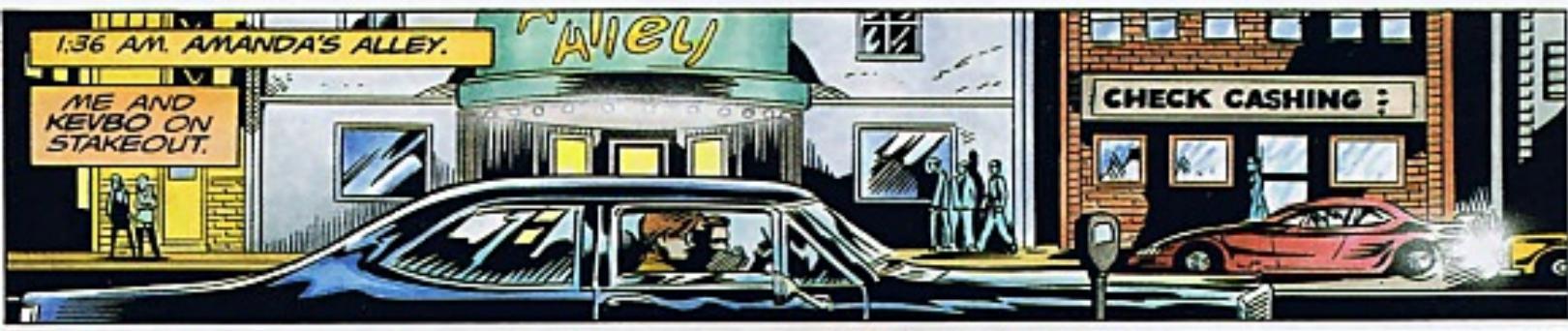
BLOW YOUR BRAINS OUT--?

--OR MINE?

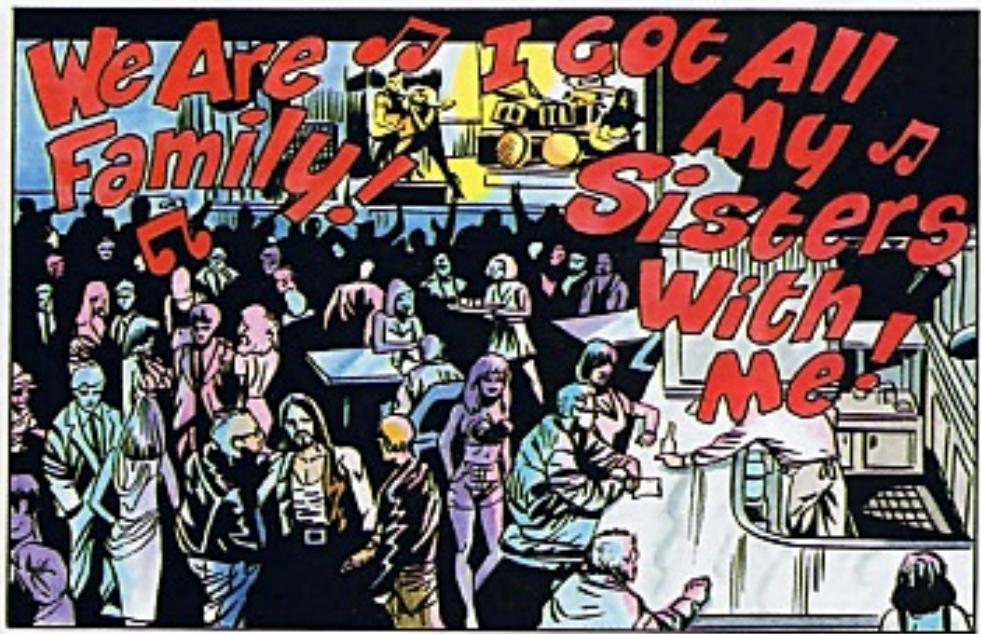
HIS.

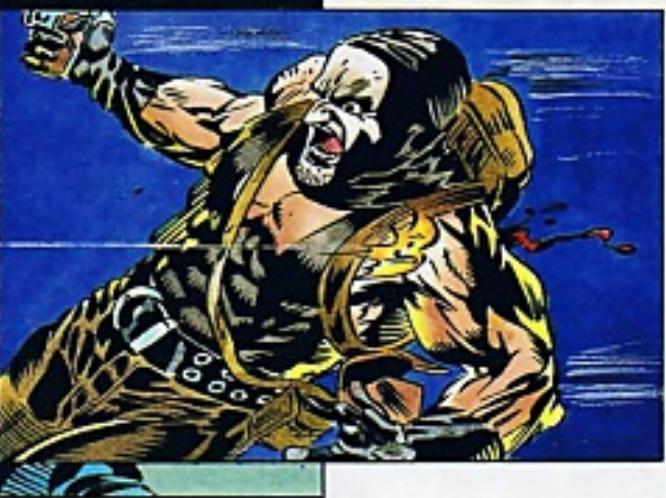
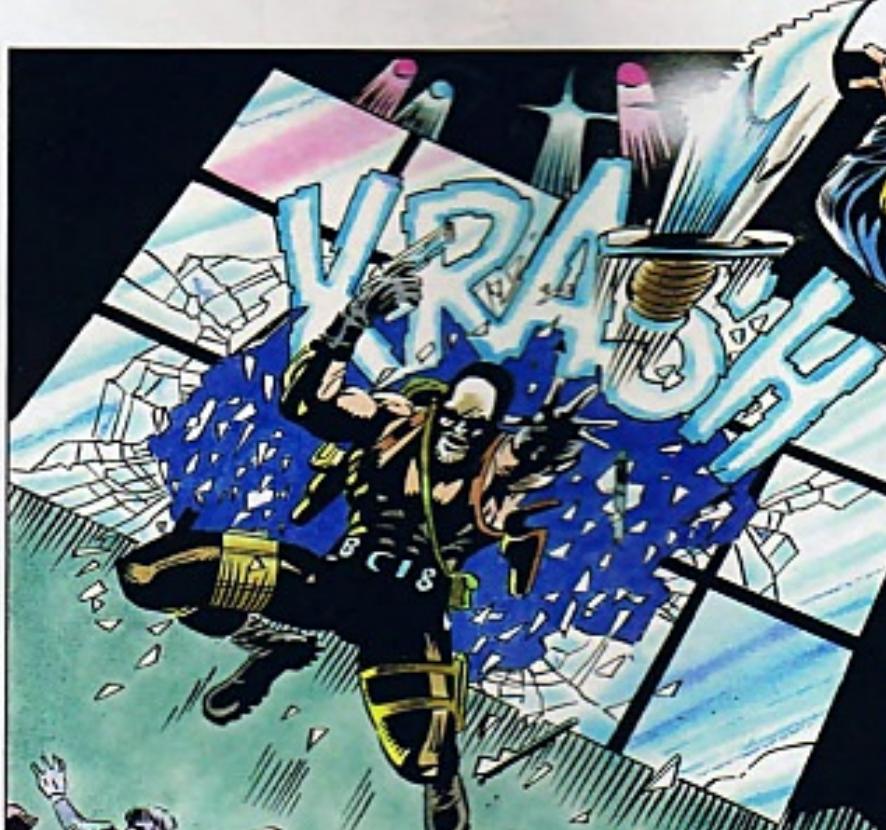
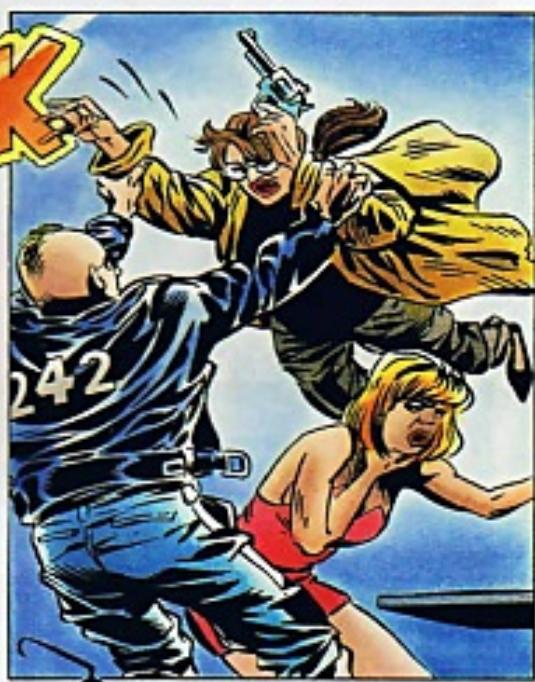


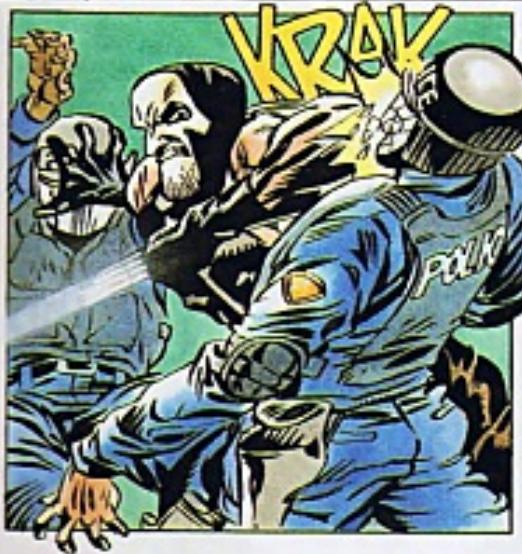
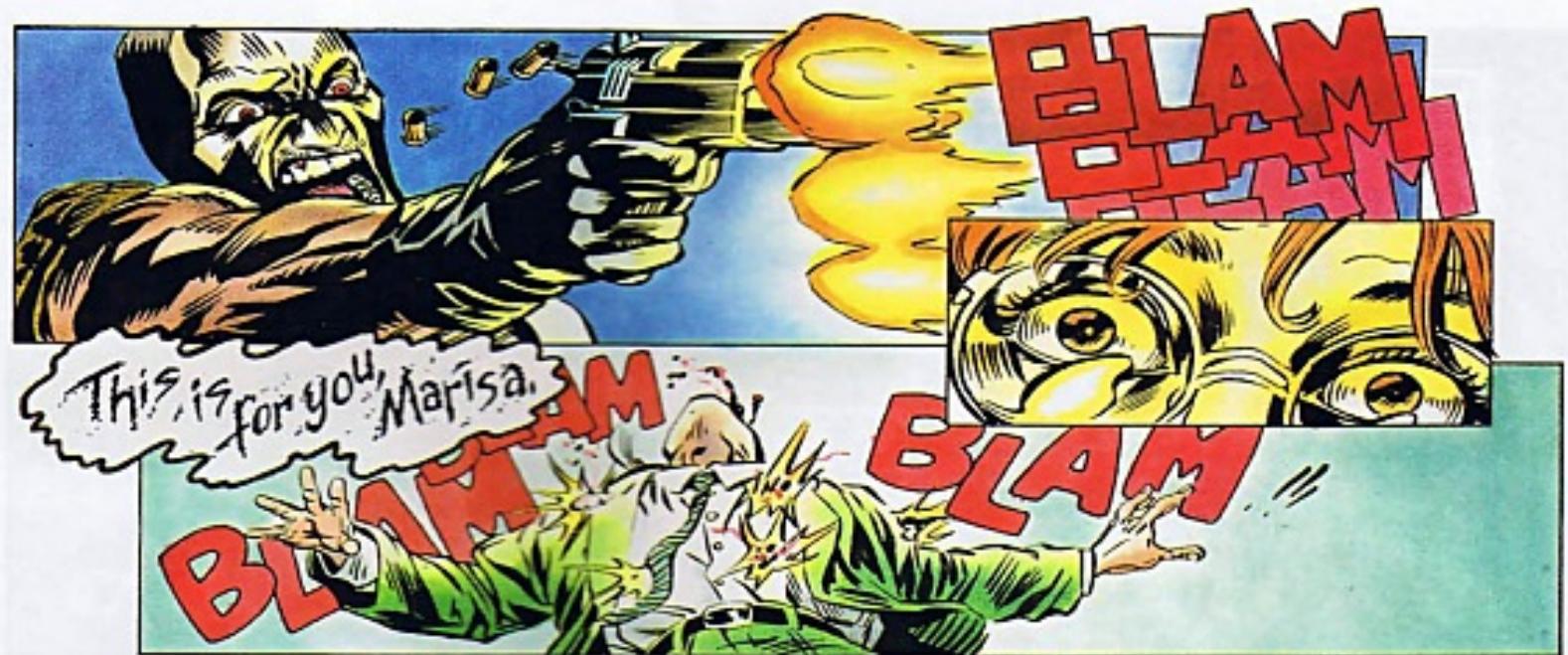








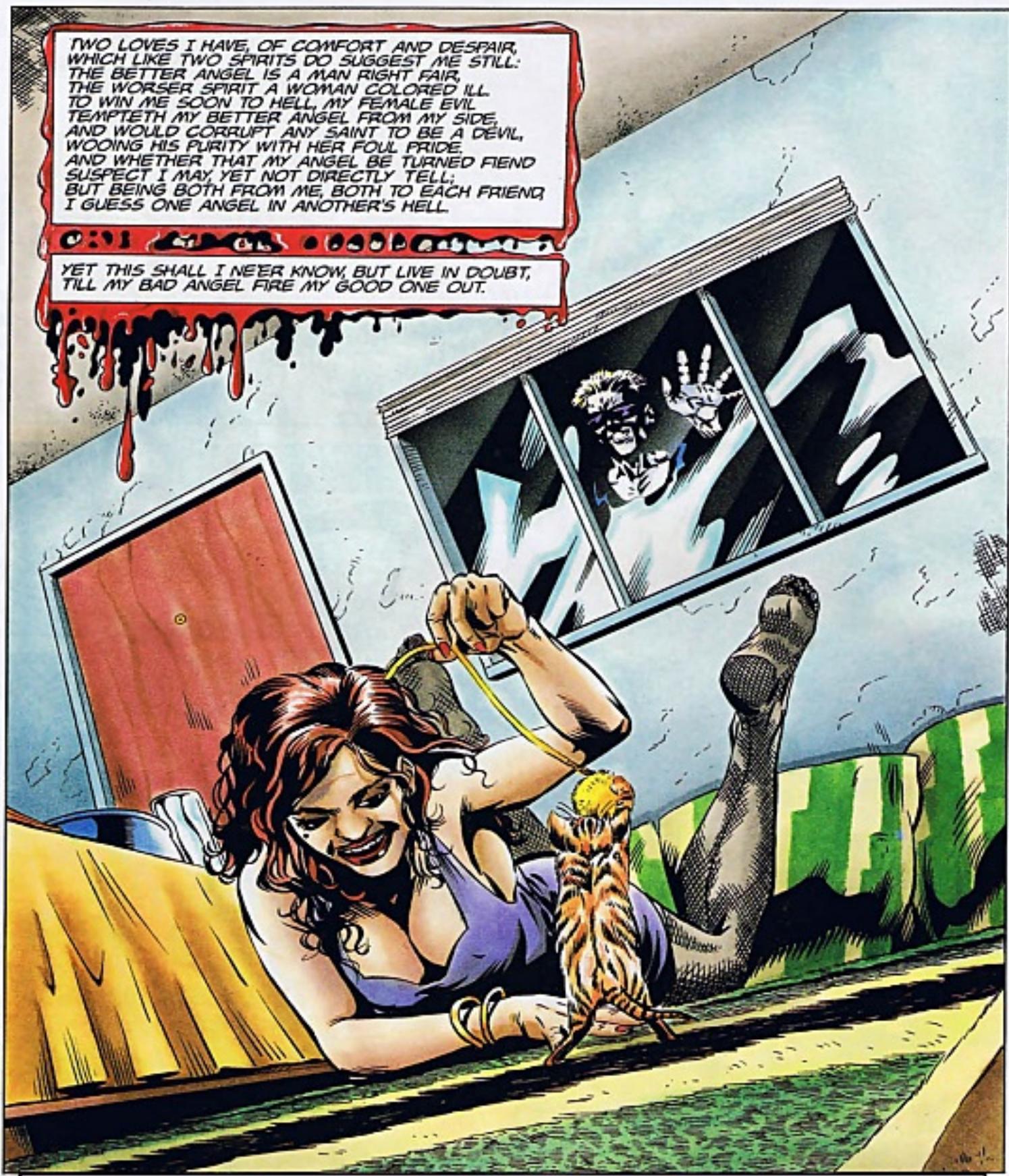




TWO LOVES I HAVE, OF COMFORT AND DESPAIR,  
WHICH LIKE TWO SPIRITS DO SUGGEST ME STILL:  
THE BETTER ANGEL IS A MAN RIGHT FAIR,  
THE WORSER SPIRIT A WOMAN COLORED ILL  
TO WIN ME SOON TO HELL, MY FEMALE EVIL  
TEMPTETH MY BETTER ANGEL FROM MY SIDE,  
AND WOULD CORRUPT ANY SAINT TO BE A DEVIL,  
WOONING HIS PURITY WITH HER FOUL PRIDE.  
AND WHETHER THAT MY ANGEL BE TURNED FIEND  
SUSPECT I MAY, YET NOT DIRECTLY TELL;  
BUT BEING BOTH FROM ME, BOTH TO EACH FRIEND,  
I GUESS ONE ANGEL IN ANOTHER'S HELL.

ONCE UPON A TIME

YET THIS SHALL I NEER KNOW, BUT LIVE IN DOUBT,  
TILL MY BAD ANGEL FIRE MY GOOD ONE OUT.



ADAM BLAUSTEIN writer • YVES FEZZANI plot assist  
J. H. WILLIAMS III penciller • JIMMY PALMIOTTI inker  
J. BROWN painted color • JOSEPH DANIELLO letterer • DWAYNE McDUFFIE editor



## THE COMPANY LINE

WRITE TO: THE COMPANY LINE  
MILESTONE MEDIA INC. 119 WEST 23RD STREET  
SUITE 409 NEW YORK, NY 10011

### MILESTONE'S NEXT GENERATION

MILESTONE's not just getting better, it's getting BIGGER! Since we began almost two years ago, some of the best and brightest young minds in the industry have been drawn to us like flies to the substance of your choice. Here are the latest bunch to alight on us:

• MARK W. BENNETT - The new guy in Production isn't new at all. Mark's been assisting in Editorial for months, but he man-



Mari and Joe M.

aged to switch to the NEW new position just as we went to press! He's a graduate of the High School of Art and Design in Manhattan and a recipient of the John Johnson Award for Media Excellence. Now, he's kept busy with last-minute art corrections and any other production work that needs doing. Mark is another graduate of our internship program.

• MARI HASHIMOTO made a switch, too. From out of the ranks of our internship program came Mari to assist Christine the mighty Communicator, but she's already moved over to become the new Mark W. Bennett for Editorial! She is now the new

Editorial Assistant. She is also a recent graduate of Oberlin College where she double majored in English and Women's Studies.

- JOSEPH G. MALONEY - When Joseph Illidge, Assistant to the President and Administrator extraordinaire, needs something done, Joseph's the one to do it. Joseph's major at Kingsborough College was pre-med, but he's finding that there's a lot of doctoring in a supply requisition, too!
- JOSEPH DANIELLO - Hardly a new face, Joe has been making his mark as a letterer here since STATIC #12. His trail of hard work is about to become a trench, as he's regularly begun to design logos for us (for instance, the new



Joe D., Buttinsky Burrell, Jacquie

SHADOW CABINET, DEATHWISH and HOLOCAUST logos.) Look for his coloring job on DEATHWISH #2, too! Joe is a proud graduate of the Joe Kubert School of Cartoon and Graphic Art.

(Even more importantly, Joe's living proof that one out of every five people in the office is named Joe. This has been true since the very beginning. While Joes are sorely underrepresented elsewhere in this industry, we're proud to have more than our share at Milestone. But then, our Joes are the good ones.)

• FELICIA GARTRELL - Our new receptionist mans the phones and wards off aggressive salesmen. Multitalented as all of our new hires are, Felicia is also a licensed hair stylist, a model (you'll see her in ESSENCE magazine), and a junior at York College majoring in psychology.

• JACQUELINE SHACKELFORD - Artist extraordinaire, Jacqueline assists Creative Director Denys Cowan. She's a graduate of Pratt Institute, with an emphasis in illustration, and concentration on oil painting, sculpting and collage art. Jacqueline's creative contributions are manifold. You may not have seen her work in any comics, but



Burrell, Felicia, Mark

her hand is in everything else — letterhead, business cards, trading cards, et cetera.

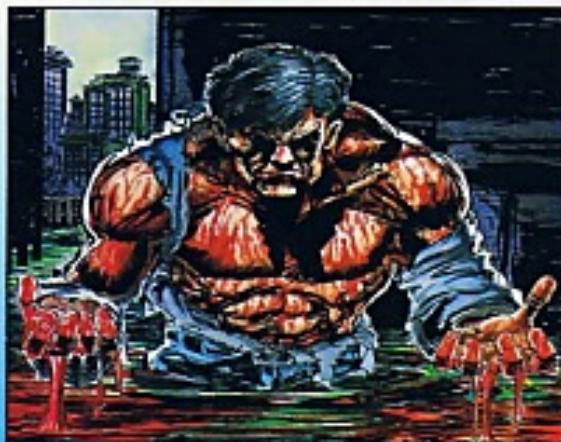
• ANDREW BURRELL - You've seen color assistant Burrell's work on WORLDS COLLIDE, XOMBI #5, and the outstanding covers of HARDWARE #20 and BLOOD SYNDICATE #19. Burrell is not only a fast learner, but a talented illustrator in his own right. A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, Burrell's easy charm makes him a pleasure to work with. It's almost as good as if he were named Joe!

### SOMEWHERE ON THIS PAGE

—there's a picture of the new HARDWARE poster, by DENYS COWAN, KENT WILLIAMS and RICHARD ORY! It's the thing to seek out! Not to mention, we're appalled that we didn't show a picture of it last month.



HARDWARE FOR SALE! (Poster-wise)



FLAVOR OF THE M.D. BRIGHT  
COVER MONTH: XOMBI #8!

## JANUARY MILESTONES.

□ **HARDWARE #23** Ships November 15th "TRUST NEVER SLEEPS" heats up, when HARDWARE is up against a SYSTEMATIC with a message! □ **ICON #21** Ships November 22nd THE MOTHERSHIP CONNECTION concludes when ICON checks out, leaving a bewildered and very pregnant ROCKET to fend for herself! □ **XOMBI #8** Ships November 22nd THE SCHOOL OF ANGUISH, part TWO! BLISTER ED, a fiery construct of words spoken in anger, has something to say to DAVID KIM! □ **BLOOD SYNDICATE #22** Ships November 29th KWAI's mortally wounded! MOTHER needs a dupe, and finds MASQUERADE! □ **SHADOW CABINET #8** Ships November 29th The abandoned Cabinet ops battle on, while DHARMA's new recruit, STARLIGHT, starts blasting! □ **KOBALT #8** Ships December 6th A small-time crook may be ST. CLOUD's bait to lure KOBALT into a deadly trap. Featuring new penciller ERIC BATTLE, and a guest appearance by HARDWARE, who shows up to plug his poster! □ **STATIC #19** Ships December 6th As Dakota becomes a war zone of anti-gay violence, STATIC finds himself in a fiery confrontation with the SONS OF ODIN, and one of his oldest enemies! Featuring new series writer IVAN VELEZ, JR.! □ **DEATHWISH #2** Ships December 6th As Police Lt. MARISA RAHM comes closer to solving the grisly serial killings, DEATHWISH's escape from prison makes him a suspect!

WRITE TO:

**WEATHWISH**

119 WEST 23RD STREET, SUITE 409  
NEW YORK, NY 10011

MILESTONE MEDIA, INC.  
DEREK T. DINGLE, PRESIDENT  
DWAYNE McDUFFIE, EDITOR IN CHIEF  
DENYS B. GOWAN, CREATIVE DIRECTOR  
MATT WAYNE, ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
ADAM BLAUSTEIN, PRODUCTION MANAGER  
JACQUELINE CHING, ASSISTANT EDITOR  
CHRISTINE N. GILLIAM, CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS  
JOSEPH ILLIDGE, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
ALLEN A. EPPS, C.P.A., ACCOUNTING SERVICES  
BOB STEIN, LEGAL SERVICES

Cover: J. H. Williams III / Joseph Daniello

# NEXT ISSUE: DAKOTA IS BURNING



SCANNED BY  
JHFRAIL DCP





BLAUSTEIN • WILLIAMS III • PALMIOTTI

3  
FEB



"GETTING  
INSIDE THE  
MIND OF A  
NUT IS  
DANGEROUS  
BUSINESS"

US \$2.50  
CAN \$3.50  
UK £1.50



# VEATHWISH

KNOCKIN' BOOTS

ASLIGHT  
CASE OF  
OVER  
BOMBING

WANTED:  
DEAD OR ALIVE



000311



61941 20392 8

DIRECT SALES





HOW CAN I THEN RETURN IN HAPPY FLIGHT  
THAT AM DEBARRED THE BENEFIT OF REST,  
WHEN DAY'S OPPRESSION IS NOT EASED BY NIGHT,  
BUT DAY BY NIGHT AND NIGHT BY DAY OPPRESSED,  
AND EACH, THOUGH ENEMIES TO EITHER'S REIGN,  
DO IN CONSENT SHAKE HANDS TO TORTURE ME.

--W.M. SHAKESPEARE



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HAPPY  
CHANUKAH,  
KIDDO!

I  
BROUGHT  
YOU A NEW  
TOY!

BLOW  
MY BRAINS  
OUT!

OR BLOW  
OUT YOUR  
OWN--

YOUR DECISION.

EWY

POLICE!  
FREEZE!!

WHAT  
DO YOU WANT,  
MARTINI?

I'M  
TAKIN' BACK  
OUR BODY,  
MARISA!

AS A  
COP, YOU'RE  
A WASHOUT!  
RULES WERE MADE  
TO BE FOLLOWED  
OR SOCIETY  
COLLAPSES--

--AND  
AS FAR AS I'M  
CONCERNED YOUR  
VERY EXISTENCE  
BREAKS THE  
RULES.

YOU HAVE  
THE RIGHT  
TO REMAIN  
SILENT--

I  
CREATED  
YOU, MARTIN.  
YOU WERE ONLY A  
FRONT-MAN FOR  
A WORLD THAT  
WASN'T READY  
FOR ME.

REMEMBER  
HOW SCARED YOU  
WERE WHEN YOU SAW  
ME IN THE MIRROR--  
LIKE YOU WERE  
GOING TO DIE.

TOOOOOOO  
RIGHT.

BLAM  
BLAM  
BLAM





# DAKOTA



# IS BURNING



# IS BURNING



# IS BURNING



ADAM  
BLAUSTEIN  
writer  
•  
YVES  
FEZZANI  
plot assist  
•  
J. H.  
WILLIAMS III  
penciller  
•  
JIMMY  
PALMIOTTI  
inker  
•  
J. BROWN  
painted color  
•  
JOSEPH  
DANIELLO  
letterer  
•  
DWAYNE  
MCDUFFIE  
editor



# IS BURNING





THE SHRINKS CALL IT GENDER DYSPHORIA. THERE ARE AS MANY TYPES OF IT AS THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE IT.

I HAD AN AWFUL FEELING THAT ITS WORST INCARNATION WAS STALKING THE STREETS IN A PAIR OF STEEL-POINTED BOOTS.

IF THE SPECTRUM OF MANKIND CAN COVER EVERYTHING FROM GOD TO THE DEVIL --

--THEN I GUESS IT CAN COVER AN ANGEL--

I COUNT ONLY SIX PAIR.

--AND A BOOTS.

I TOLD THESE FAGGOTS TO WATCH--

SILENCE, CRETIN.

DO NOT IMPUGN THE REPUTATION OF THESE CHERUBS. THEY ARE ANGELS WITH SULLIED WINGS, AND I HAVE TAKEN IT AS MY CHARGE TO RETURN THEM TO THEIR BLISS.

YOUR NEGLIGENCE HAS EARNED YOU A PROMOTION--

FROM ARTIST TO ART.

Poor soul, the center of my sinful earth,  
Fooled by these rebel powers that thee array,  
Why dost thou pine within and suffer dearth,  
Painting thy outward walls so costly gay?

GETTIN' INSIDE THE MIND OF A NUT IS DANGEROUS BUSINESS.

YOU GOTTA FIND THE NUT INSIDE, YA KNOW?

I REMEMBER HOW FRIGHTENED MARTIN USED TO BE THAT I WOULD TAKE OVER-- THAT I WAS STRONGER. THAT BASTARD KEPT ME IN CHAINS.

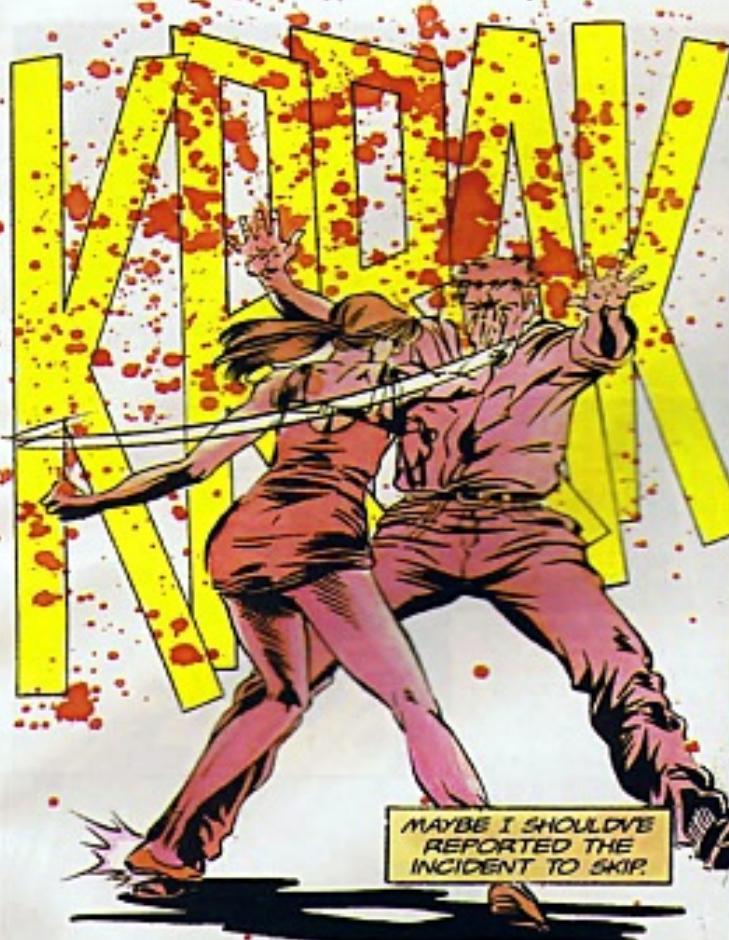
THUK

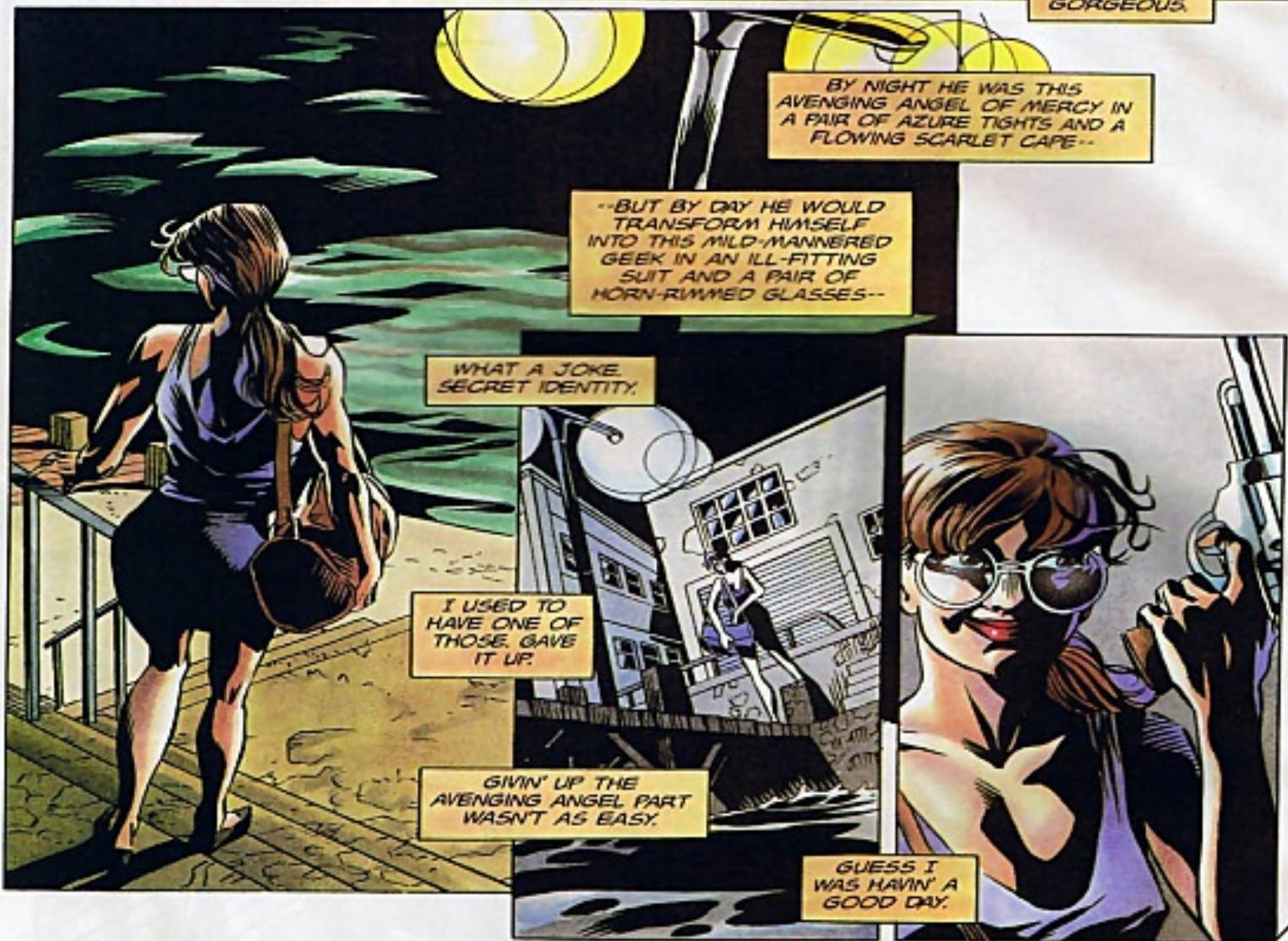
I REMEMBERED HOW OFTEN HE TRIED TO SYMBOLICALLY KILL ME-- STUFFIN' MY CLOTHES AND MAKEUP IN A DUMPSTER IN AN EFFORT TO PURGE HIMSELF OF THE DAEMON GODDESS.

"METHINKS NO FACE SO GRACIOUS IS AS MINE, NO SHAPE SO TRUE, NO TRUTH OF SUCH ACCOUNT, AND FOR MYSELF MINE OWN WORTH DO DEFINE AS I ALL OTHER IN ALL WORTHS SURMOUNT. BUT WHEN MY GLASS SHOWS ME MYSELF INDEED, BEATED AND CHOPPED WITH TANNED ANTIQUITY, MINE OWN SELF-LOVING WERE INIQUITY; TIS THEE (DINI) THAT FOR MYSELF I PRAISE, PAINTING MY AGE WITH BEAUTY OF THY DAYS."

WAS I OUT TO PUNISH BOOTS-- OR MARTIN? WAS THIS MY OWN DEATHWISH?









TOO BAD I WASN'T  
WRITIN' THE STORY

HANG ON A SECOND.  
I WANNA READ YOU  
SOMETHING, OKAY?

IT'S AN ENTRY FROM  
THE DIARY OF JAMES  
GORDON STALEY--

--BOOTS.

\*and so I find myself at a crossroads  
in my expression as an artist.

\*--Art as Appropriation  
versus Art as Life.

--By signing his name to  
a urinal, Duchamp trumpeted  
the call to artists that mere  
appropriation and presentation  
was all that was required to  
transform the common into  
the sublime--

\*--Yet I find this  
to be simplistic.

\*--and Art is  
never simple.

"For how can the mere proclamation that the profane is sacred suffice--

"--when beauty in the form of human expression of self outstrips the base utilitarianism of its surroundings.

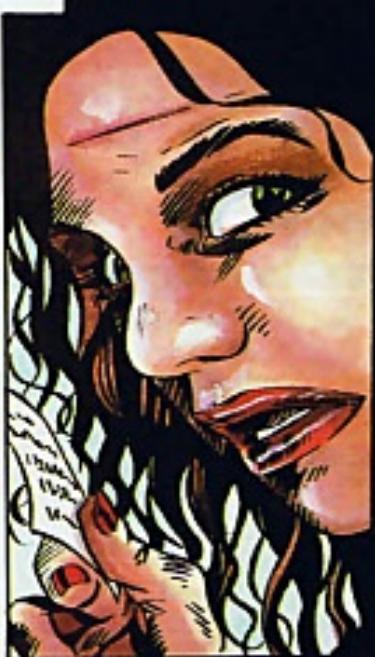
"And yet the elevation of these beautiful naifs to the status of art requires the service of an artist.

"I am an artist.

"It is the death of these most comely of scapegoats and their subsequent resurrection as art that is to be the focal point of my revels.

"A drag ball to end all drag balls-- in a Dionysian rite of spraying blood and crunching bone.

"In tribute to The Diva."



THANK THE GODDESS FOR SLIMMIE.

YOU COULD ALWAYS COUNT ON LINDA IN A CRISIS--

--AND PICKIN' OUT A NICE OUTFIT FOR MY DATE WITH DINI WAS, FOR ME, A CRISIS.

THINK SHE'LL LIKE ME IN THIS ONE, SLIM?

MS. FEM WOULD LIKE YOU IN A POTATO SACK, MADDIE.

TRY IT ON.

DRESSING  
IT'S GETTIN' CLOSE TO ELEVEN, LINDA.

NOT LIKE DINI TO BE LATE.

DRESSING  
DEFINITELY YOU NOT!

DOESN'T MATTER, LET'S PAY FOR IT AND HEAD HOME.

I'M WORRIED.

NORMALLY, I WOULDN'T BE PUTTING ONE OF MY OFFICERS OUT ON THE STREETS SO SOON AFTER A SHOOTING...

CAPT. GIL SUMMERS

GUESS RAHM'S SAYIN' SAYONARA HAS LEFT YOU A MAN SHORT.

DON'T WORRY, CHIEF. LT. KEVIN THORNE WITH A CLIPPED WING IS WORTH TEN FREAKS LIKE MISS MARTY.

DON'T KID YOURSELF, THORNE.

MARISA RAHM WAS THE BEST.

IT'S A TEN MINUTE WALK  
FROM ANGELA'S TO HOME.

THREE MINUTES AND  
TWENTY-SEVEN SECONDS  
IF YOU RUN.

WHEN YOU'VE BEEN  
A COP AS LONG AS I  
WAS, YOU LEARN TO  
TRUST YOUR GUT.

MINE WAS  
ON FIRE.

LOCK ON OUR  
APARTMENT DOOR  
HAD BEEN JUMLIED.

WAIT  
HERE.

I'M  
GOIN'  
IN.







FUCK ART...  
LET'S DANCE!

SHI  
KLIK

FOR  
DEATHWISH

WILLIAM  
1994  
FANTASTIC

TO BE CONCLUDED



WRITE TO: THE COMPANY LINE  
MILESTONE MEDIA INC. 119 WEST 23RD STREET  
SUITE 409 NEW YORK, NY 10011

### MORE THAN JUST THE COLORIST

JASON SCOTT JONES, who signs his name "J. Scott J." to confuse everybody, has taken a big step up — to become our new Color Editor. He's proven himself time and again to have that unbeatable combination of talent, resourcefulness and narcolepsy that makes a great Color Assistant. He'll need to use all his ability to the fullest, though, because he's got some big shoes to fill; Those of departing Color Editor NOELLE C. GIDDINGS.

It's a good bet that we couldn't have made it this far without Noelle. Her sensibilities are all over every page of Milestone comics, and regularly drummed into Jason's head. She'll be sorely missed. But we still win; now that the life of the free lance has called out to her, she'll be doing even more of the part she likes best: Painting the books. Look for her work on the new HOLOCAUST miniseries and every ongoing issue of XOMBI, not to mention the Big Secret Project.

We're all going to miss Noelle, but we're also excited for Jason, and can't wait to see him in action. Like so many comics pros, he started out as an intern for Milestone!

### KEEP READING THE FINE PRINT

While Milestone presents an unprecedented Letters Column event! In anticipation of THE LONG, HOT SUMMER — our crossover riot beginning in July — every letter is a Letter of the Month! What does this mean for you? All letters that are printed between now and then will receive the attendant Letter of the Month prize — a signed copy of the issue in which it appears. At the end of the run, three lucky letter-writing winners will receive the BIG PRIZE: a LONG, HOT SUMMER poster autographed by



Separate vacations: Noelle moving out, J. Scott J. moving in, both moving up!

all the artists! Before then, you'll be hearing a lot more about this crossover that will alter the status quo in Dakota forever! So write us!

### HOW TO DRAW THE MILESTONE WAY

"Draw visitors," that is. We recently had the pleasure of schmoozing with around 30 students from LAWNSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL, in historic LAWNSIDE, NEW JERSEY. (Seriously, Lawnside is nearly 99 percent African American with roots in the Abolitionist movement and the Underground Railroad.)

We had a chance to show our guests what goes into a Milestone comic, and they got to show us some of their own drawings and comics. Not a bad way to get acquainted. We're talking about going to Lawnside for a comics workshop sometime in the spring, so it looks like the start of something major!



Denys goes Lawnside!



ChrisCross (Michigan) and students!

### DESIGN O' THE TIMES

This past November, Milestone's NOELLE C. GIDDINGS, IVAN VELEZ, JR., and CHRISCROSS led 50 NEW YORK CITY high school students on an "exploration" of design in the comic book industry. The program, ACTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES: THE URBAN UNIVERSE IN COMICS, was one in a series of Design Career Days being held at Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum this fall and spring for High School students.

Ivan began with a discussion of the writer's role. Chris followed with a his view of pencilling as drama. Finally, Noelle explained color in terms of visual energy and story.

Working one-on-one with the students, the Milestone group helped participants to come up with their own comics. At the end of the day, each team presented their work, and Ivan, Chris and Noelle just may have started a career or two!

## FEBRUARY MILESTONES.

□ **HARDWARE #24** Ships December 13th The "TRUST NEVER SLEEPS" storyline finishes off, as a renegade SYSTEMATIC threatens to finish off HARDWARE and ALVA!

□ **ICON #22** Ships December 20th The search for a new Hero of Dakota forces Raquel and the new ROCKET to a desperate measure — in fact, to the most desperate measure of ALL!

□ **XOMBI #9** Ships December 20th. Recommended for mature readers. THE SCHOOL OF ANGUISH, part THREE! DAVID and JULIAN learn that the BELI MAH need DAVID for their dark metaphysics. Revealed at last: the meaning of the word, "XOMBI"!

□ **BLOOD SYNDICATE #23** Ships December 27th KWAI's unleashed magic causes the members of the SYNDICATE to revert to their pre-Big Bang forms! BOOGIE-MAN'S most intimate secret is uncovered!

□ **SHADOW CABINET #9** Ships December 27th STARLIGHT and PLUS join CAPTAIN RAY against 15 SYSTEMATICS, and DHARMA leaves the group — the HARD way! DONT peek at the last page!

□ **KOBALT #9** Ships January 10th Whoever's trying to frame the KOBALT has caught the attentions of Detective JOE HOMILY! Meanwhile, love's in bloom when PAGE actually talks to MICHELLE!

□ **STATIC #20** Ships January 10th STATIC's climactic appearance at the gay rights rally may be VIRGIL HAWKINS' final appearance ANYWHERE when HOTSTREAK, his oldest enemy, fires up the crowd!

□ **DEATHWISH #3** Ships January 10th Recommended for mature readers. DEATHWISH plagues Police Lt. MARISA RAHM, while DINI falls within reach of BOOTS, the only psycho-killer worse than Deathwish!



FLAVOR OF THE MONTH:  
SHADOW CABINET #9!

# LOVE 'N' DEATH



DEATHWISH IS A FOUR ISSUE LIMITED SERIES. WRITE TO: LOVE 'N' DEATH 119 WEST 23RD STREET, SUITE 409 NEW YORK, NY 10011

## ADAM SPEAKS...

Since its inception, Milestone has brought you characters written from the unique experiences of its writers. Characters designed to break the sometimes monolithic nature of the stereotypical. When Editor in Chief Dwayne McDuffie approached me with the idea of writing a miniseries I was faced with the daunting challenge of what I could bring to Milestone's already bountiful table. I decided that like all the other writers at Milestone my contribution had to be no less than the sum of my experiences. If you're reading this now, I can only assume that you've met a woman named Marisa Rahm. Like other denizens of the Milestone's Dakota universe she is more than just entertainment (though I hope that she has been that as well). Marisa Rahm, though not exactly flesh and blood, is nonetheless very real. Like real people she may be endearing to some and offensive to others. She would no more apologize for being herself than I as a writer would apologize for bringing her into the world of comics.

Good writers write what they know. While I am by no means a police officer, it can certainly be argued that Dwayne McDuffie is not a super-hero (so far as I know). Dwayne is, however, an African-American male living in the latter part of the twentieth century, and that is an experience that must color his writing. Characters like Icon and Hardware are reflective of his experience. Marisa Rahm is reflective of mine.

The Deathwish miniseries is for me a very personal story that I truly feel could only have been published here at Milestone. From its beginnings almost a year ago as of this writing, the entire project has come together with an almost magical kind of luck. J.H. Williams III proved to be the absolute perfect choice to pencil this book (at times it seemed he read my mind). Jimmy Palmiotti's inking seemed to be wedged to J.H.'s artwork, James Brown's painted color both surprised and delighted me, as did the painted color covers by Noelle Giddings and Joseph Daniello. Joseph, who has so far lettered all the books I've written at Milestone did his usual superlative job. I want to thank them, and I want to thank both Milestone and DC who handled this project with an unprecedented amount of support. Mostly I want to thank my writing partner, Yves Fezzani, who is also my Dini. Te amo. Querida mia!

THANKS!  
Adam

Milestone Crew,

Intense! Very very intense. Thanks very much for the DEATHWISH preview that you hand

ed out in San Diego. I think the Milestone titles are, book for book, the strongest line of comics currently published, and "DEATHWISH" is a fine addition to the line. His introduction in "HARDWARE" was chilling and quite groundbreaking in that it got inside the head of Deathwish, examining the demons tormenting him, compelling his actions. It was handled in a far starker and more horrifying way than the crop of grim anti-hero vigilantes currently flooding the comics market.

Adam Blaustein mentioned at your panel at the Con that the "DEATHWISH" miniseries would not be in the mold of other grim and gritty characters. The heart of this series would be a love story, and that the featured protagonist would be "a woman but not a female." Despite Milestone's track record, I was still a bit skeptical and so waited until the hustle and bustle of the Con was over to actually sit down and read it.

WOW! I'm impressed.

Blaustein and Fezzani's deft characterization drew me immediately into the story. This is indeed quite different from anything I'd encountered before, and this is just the first issue's exposition. I like Marisa Rahm. Had lesser talent written this character, I most likely would not have. One of the many appeals of Milestone is the overall absence of stereotypes and clichés. The Dakota universe is populated by real people with all the attendant hopes, fears, joys, sorrows, loves and loathing of real life. What could easily have been a one-dimensional cipher with little purpose other than the shock value has been transcendently limned as a vibrant, vital and sympathetic personality.

That the appearances of the titular character are brief but pivotal is also a plus, one I hope holds true for the remainder of the series. The sheer horror that Deathwish's mere appearance elicits is nearly palpable, fear tinged awe fairly drips from page four. Intense. The art, appropriately, is moody and clearly laid out so as to propel the narrative along at a proper pace, something, unfortunately, increasingly rare these days when solid storytelling takes a backseat to flash and dazzle. Thank you J.H. Williams! Jimmy Palmiotti's inking is clear, bold, and professional as always.

Appreciatively,  
Kevin Andre Shaw  
1239 W. 51st Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90037

Dear Mr. Dwayne McDuffie,

"This Ain't No Cryin' Game" is a shame.

It's a shame that this segment of society has never been portrayed in a comic book of high caliber social consciousness as yours. Now, with the DEATHWISH miniseries, I'm enjoying

MILESTONE MEDIA INC.  
DEREK T. DINGLE, PRESIDENT  
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DENYS B. COWAN, CREATIVE DIRECTOR  
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JOSEPH ILLIDGE, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
ALLEN A. EPPS, C.P.A., ACCOUNTING SERVICES  
BOB STEIN, LEGAL SERVICES

Cover: J.H. Williams / Jimmy Palmiotti / Noelle C. Giddings

more of what you're good at: GREAT STORIES! A transsexual / serial-killer thriller! Has this ever been done before? I really admire the character of Lt. Marisa Rahm. She really has some big "stones." I can't wait! This story has me on pins and needles, needles and pins... It can only get hotter from here on out!!!

Sincerely,  
Leo Padilla  
Passaic, NJ

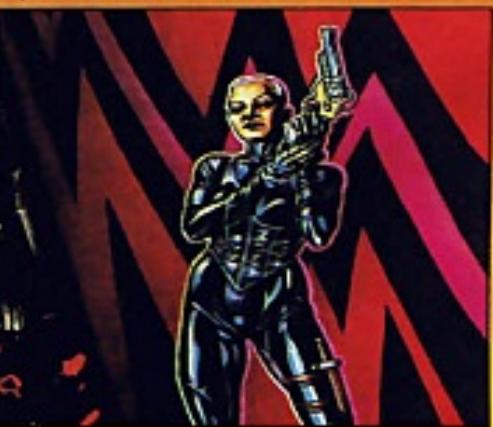
Deathwish,

Ain't nobody bad like the Deathwishes! I read it, I loved it, I'm waiting for the next one. Of course I'm talking about DEATHWISH #1. The writing and the art was great! But of course that's usual for a Milestone comic.

I had a feeling that you guys would come out with a couple of miniseries. Anyway, is there a chance this or the the Holocaust mini-series will become a regular series? Is there a chance we could be looking at a Deathwish / Hardware team-up or crossover!!!! Well, I know you guys are pretty busy up there so keep up the excellent work. You keep making them, and I'll keep buying them.

A loyal fan,  
David Hall  
2126 Bryanston Cr.  
Detroit, MI 48207

Never too busy to give you exactly what you want! HARDWARE #26 starts a three issue story arc entitled "The Hunt For Deathwish"! It's a Cyber-Gothic nightmare brought to you by Milestone's daemonic duo, Adam & Yves. They promise that you'll lose plenty of sleep reading this one. Look for it in thirty seven days!



NEXT: REVENGE IS A DISH,  
BEST SERVED BALD!

SCANNED BY  
JHFRAIL DCP



BLAUSTEIN • WILLIAMS III • PALMIOTTI



4  
MAR

"IN DEATH  
THERE ARE  
NO RULES"

US \$2.50  
CAN \$3.50  
UK £1.50



DIRECT SALES



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I WISH YOU COULD  
HAVE SEEN ME THEN,  
MY SWEETNESS.

I REMEMBER ALL OF IT.  
THE PROUD TEARS SHED  
BY MY MOTHER--

SOFT, BEAUTIFUL  
AND REEEAAALLL

THE ENTIRE  
WORLD WAS  
MY VIDEO.

-LANA LUNA, MISS  
BANJI REALNESS, ETER-  
NAL PRINCESS OF  
PEACE. KNOWN BY HER  
FORMER PARENTS AS  
GEORGE SIMMONS.

SHE WAS NO MORE A  
GEORGE THAN I WAS  
AN ESTEFAN.

A MOST  
ENCHANTING  
ILLUSION--

I WAS A BRUJA  
WHO HAD SPUN  
FOR MYSELF AN  
INTOXICATING  
BUT SADLY  
FRAGILE SPELL.

A SADLY  
FRAGILE  
SPELL.

...MY  
DEAR BOY!



ACTUALLY IT  
WAS WICKED  
FUNNY!



HA HA HA HA HA HA

KNEED THE  
PIG WHERE  
HE LIVED!



I'M SORRY.





# SILENCE OF THE RAHM

ADAM BLAUSTEIN  
writer

YVES FEZZANI  
plot assist

J. H. WILLIAMS III  
penciller

JIMMY PALMIOTTI  
inker

J. BROWN  
painted color

JOSEPH DANIELLO  
letterer

DWAYNE McDUFFIE  
editor





OOOOOH, YOU TOO,  
QUERIDA MIA, YOU ARE  
ONE OUCH-LOOKIN'  
MAMI! EH, PAPI?

MY BRAVE  
KNIGHT IN  
SHINING  
LEATHER ARMOR--



--DOIN' IT UP,  
LIKE ARIOSTA'S  
BRADAMONTE

THOK

SMACK

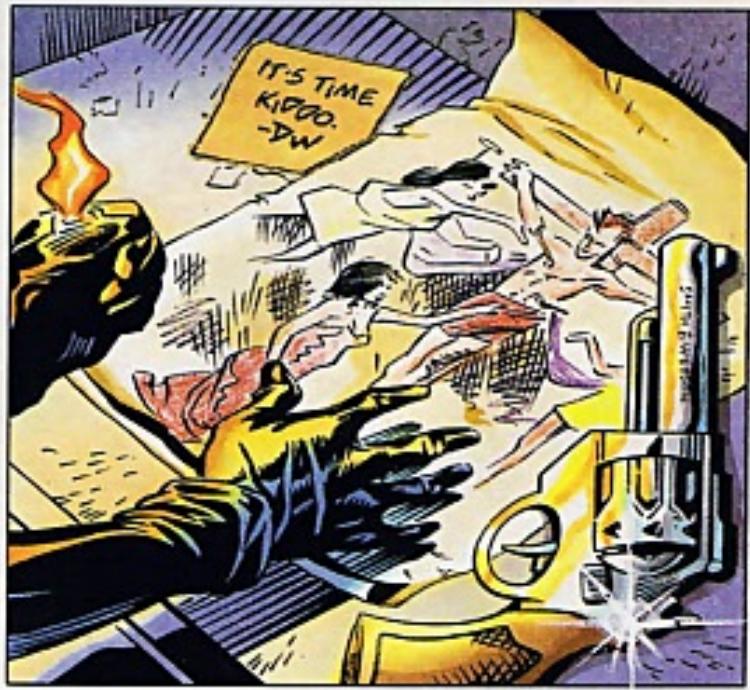
SMACK

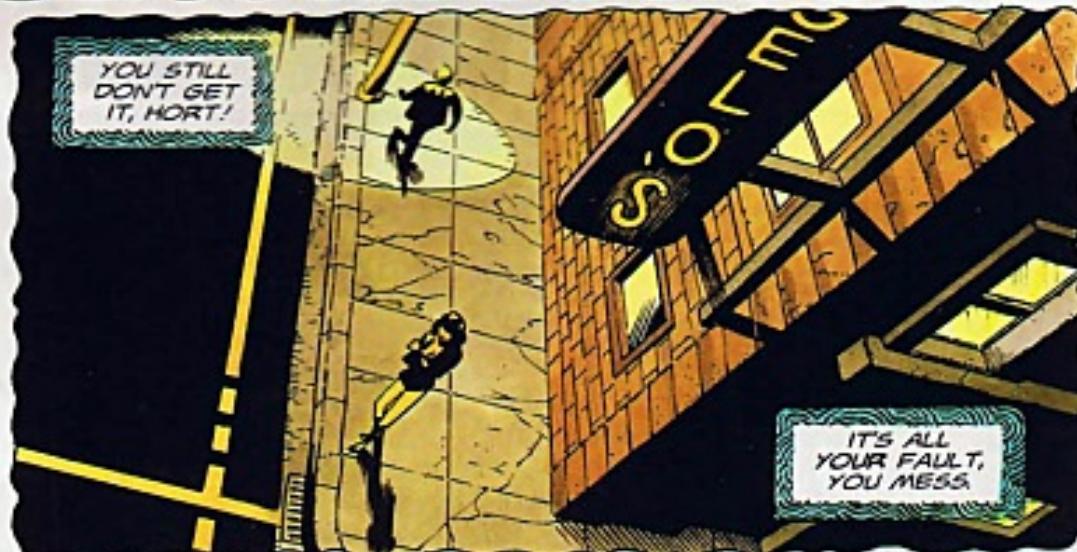
DEATH  
IS MY  
LOVER

HOW COME I  
NEVER SAW THIS SIDE  
OF YOU, LOVER?









WHY DIDST THOU PROMISE  
SUCH A BEAUTIFUL DAY

AND MAKE ME TRAVEL  
FORTH WITHOUT MY CLOAK,

TO LET BASE  
CLOUDS  
OVERTAKE ME  
IN MY WAY,

HIDING THY BRAVRY IN  
THEIR ROTTEN SMOKE?

TIS NOT ENOUGH  
THAT THROUGH THE  
CLOUD THOU BREAK

TO DRY THE RAIN  
ON MY STORM-  
BEATEN FACE,

FOR NO MAN WELL  
OF SUCH A SALVE  
CAN SPEAK

THAT HEALS THE  
WOUND, AND CURES NOT  
THE DISGRACE.

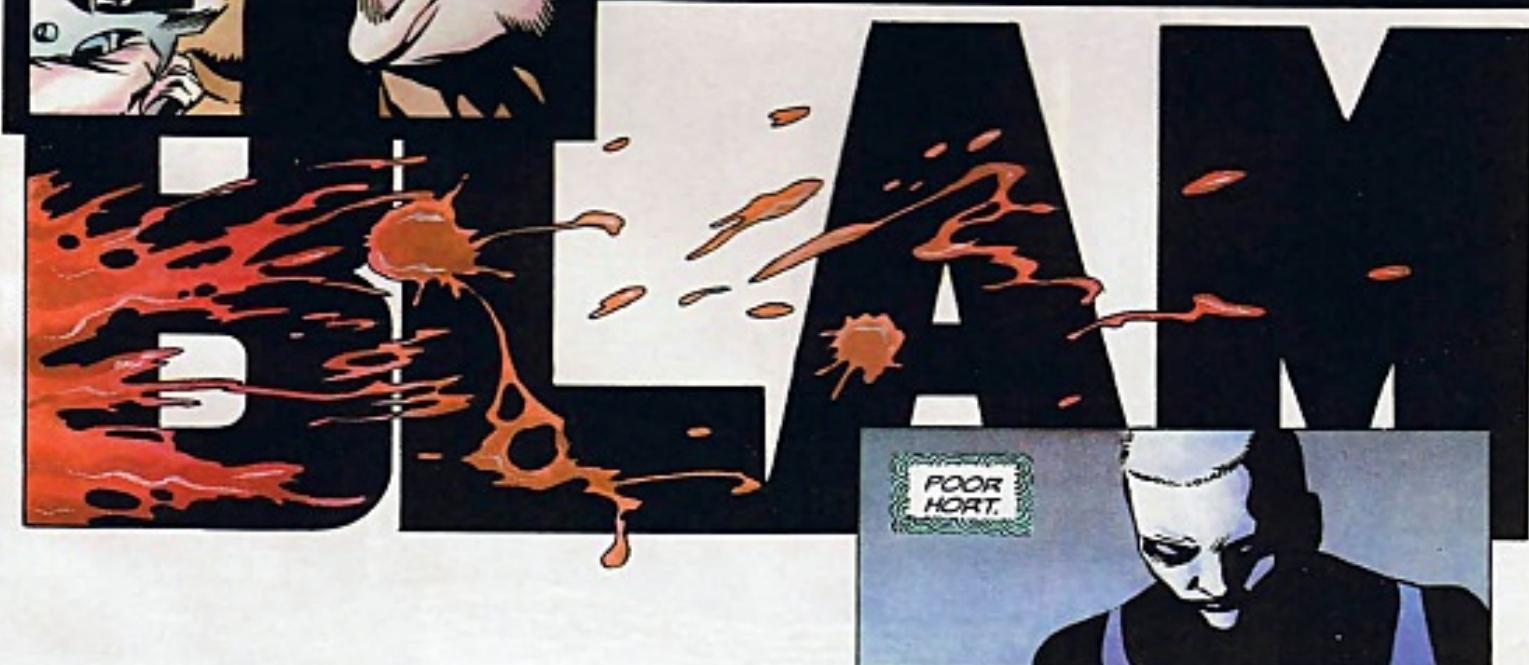
IT'S ALL YOUR  
FAULT, HORT.











FUNNY THING  
ABOUT DEATH--

--AS LOATHING AS THE LIVING  
ARE TO ADMIT IT, THEY  
DO KEEP ON LIVING.

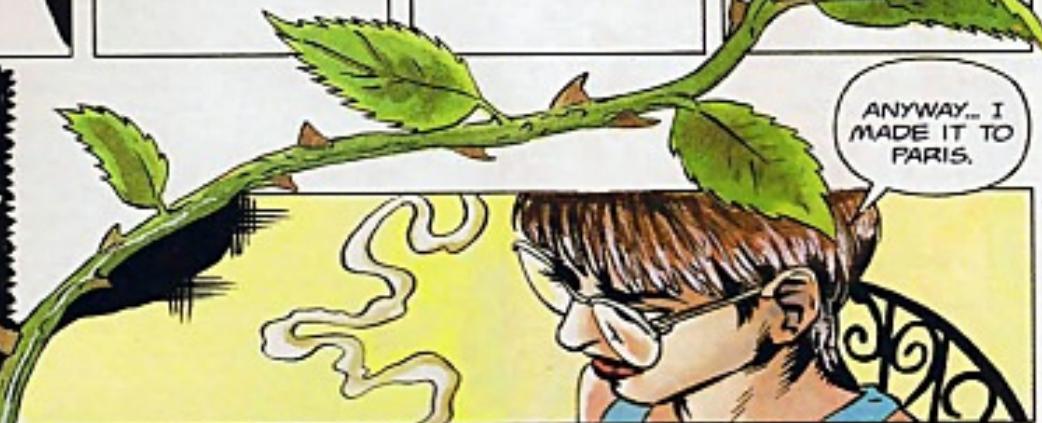
THE JORNADA  
DEL MUERTO.

A PULSATING RHYTHM  
OF WHITE NOISE THAT  
COVERS UP THE SOUND  
OF THE JACKAL'S CRY.

DID YOU  
HEAR A  
GUNSHOT?







# LOVE 'N' DEATH

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## YVES SPEAKS...

Dini Torres isn't really dead. I am Dini. As much as Marisa's story is Addie's, Dini's is mine. Addie thought it was only fitting that since the final issue of Deathwish was narrated by the character of Dini Torres, that I be given the chance to speak. The Deathwish miniseries was more than art to me. The memories it awoke in me were so strong that at times it became quite unsettling. I wasn't even aware of my own feelings of survivor-guilt until I saw it taking shape within the themes presented in our story.

On the first page, of the first issue the reader briefly encounters Jackie, a friend of Dini's who has just been killed by the serial-killer, Boots. She too was based on a real person, my bestfriend Jackie Kaufman. Jackie had met a similar fate back in the mid-eighties. I'd like to dedicate a part of this work to her, because she's not forgotten in my mind.

Jackie, I miss you, and I love you.

When I first met Addie, I was still a dweller "in the life." I am very impressed that a company like Milestone was prepared to portray something that is still so extraordinary to most people. I was also impressed that we weren't made to feel that we had to present these themes in a gratuitous fashion. I would like to personally thank Dwayne McDuffie, Denys Cowan, and Derek Dingle for their courage and foresight in creating a company where everyone's voices are heard. Finally, I'd like to thank the goddess for Slimmie.

-- Yves S. Fezzani



ADAM & YVES

Dear Milestoners,

I am a post-transsexual spansexual, which means that I've gone through the whole medical process of genital realignment, and rejecting the same accept that I am simultaneously male and female (thus "spansexual," spanning the gender gap). I don't regret losing the more obvious aspects of maleness, on the contrary, that was part of the process I had to go through to reach my current state of assertively being male and female in a society that is very hostile to the idea of being more than one gender. No, I don't regret having mine removed, but I'm angry that I was lied to, and that vulnerable trans are still being lied to, to support the false idea that healthy humans are either male or female and not both.

The reason that so many people are fascinated (or repulsed, same thing, different charge) by trans are because people who transgress gender roles have something to say to everyone who feels trapped by their gender role. Judging from the astoundingly adult and open-minded way you folks at Milestone portray human nature and interaction, I'm probably preaching to the converted here.

Thank you, everybody involved, for all the trans and non-mainstream sexualities in Milestone. Thank you, in fact, for Milestone.

Outta here,  
Norrie-May Welby  
Kings Cross, Australia

Dear Adam & Yves,

DEATHWISH continues to pick up steam; the pacing has been exceptional, and nowadays in comic book pace is a forgotten art. Now, I don't know if I'll win a prize for noticing this, but on page 14, panel 4, there is an interesting compositional choice. The moon behind Boots' head gives the illusion of a halo. It gives a good impression that he views himself as being holy and/or doing holy work. It fits with the religious imagery of both his artwork and his quotations. Sort of reminds me of the Gemini Killer from the movie "Exorcist III" (when he brags about being an artist and employing showmanship) although Boots' psychosis is much more deeply ingrained and serious.

One final piddling note - I'm sure you're going to get a LOT of letters from people commenting on the use of the word "f\*\*\*" in issue #3. I have always felt that in movies

and some books that the overuse of f\*\*\* sort of deflates its impact, and lessens its value. I consider this a very tasteful use of a word not often thought of as tasteful.

Sincerely,  
Jonah Falcon  
427 W26 St. #7E  
NY, NY 10001-5626

Dear Editors,

This really isn't even a story about the grim and gritty vigilante type "hero", Deathwish. This is the story of Lt. Marisa Rahm. I can't recall the last time I read a story that involved so much gender bending, and at that, I can't recall when I've read one of these stories that has been so interesting. You don't trivialize the gender bending, I appreciate that. I'll just say that this is one of the better, most interesting and intriguing stories that I've read all year. And there's also gun-blazing action to boot! I like this comic so much I think I'll check out more Milestone stuff. keep up the good work.

Sincerely,  
Marlan Harris  
Nuevo, CA



This miniseries is over, but the nightmares truly begin in...

## THE HUNT FOR DEATHWISH

A Cyber-gothic tale of terror

BEGINNING IN HARDWARE 26.  
ON SALE IN SEVEN DAYS!

SCANNED BY  
JHFRAIL DCP

